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European Turkey Mission
1900 - 1909
Vol. VI

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Mary L. Matthews

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Monastir, Turkey in Europe.
Sept. 13. 1900.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D.
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Barton;-

It is a long time since I wrote to you. All last year we were so busy that I could write very little. This summer we were tired - too tired to care about writing letters, even to our home friends, until it was time to begin our annual housecleaning. This has been a quiet, restful vacation, with but one tour, instead of the three or four we had hoped to make. Some roads were reported to be unsafe, and we went only to Prelep, where Miss Cole spent twelve days with Mr. and Mrs. Tsilka. Miss Pavlova and I joined them for the last four days of their stay. Partly from curiosity, no doubt, we had large audiences. The attendance in the afternoon was about one hundred and thirty in all. Separate services were held for men and women. Some seemed really interested, but many would not attend such meetings regularly

is held every Sabbath.

This is the opening day of our new year. We began this morning with few girls — six day pupils and five boarders. Some are delayed by sickness or other reasons, and will come later. We have a new teacher of the Bulgarian language, Miss Penka Sichanova, Her father is pastor of the Philippopolis church. We feel that with her help we shall be able to do better work. We had not teachers enough, last year, to do justice to all the grades. Miss Pavlova and Miss Bucheva remain with us. Now we need more girls, and we shall have them.

Feb. 25, 1901.

Quite recently I discovered this letter, to my surprise. It should have been finished and sent long ago. I am very sorry for the delay. It must have been on account of our typhoid fever girl. She was taken ill three weeks after school opened, having been exposed at her home in Racine. The next six weeks were very hard for us all, for she was a very sick girl. When the doctor pronounced it typhoid fever, we sent for Dinka's mother to take care of her. The real responsibility

rested upon the teachers, however. Dinka's mother knew very little about good nursing. Miss Pavlova's two months as nurse in the Presbyterian Hospital in New York, and her experience in caring for Ena Thomson, who had the same disease in the summer of '89, were of greatest value. It was providential that we had the use of House No. 1. We quarantined the patient on the second floor, near Miss Pavlova's room, but we were obliged to use the primary and other classrooms below, as usual. Even the little children would go about on tiptoe and try to keep quiet. All the girls were very thoughtful and helpful. It was a wonderful relief to them, as well as to the teachers, when the strain was lifted. Those of us who saw Dinka during her illness, know that she was a very sick girl, and the doctor said he believed she would have died, had she been at home. That is quite possible, for, in spite of careful directions, the mother was found doing a number of things which were very dangerous in that disease. Dinka recovered without complications. She was so very

unwilling to go home, that we could not force it, and she has been carrying two studies this winter. She is the only person from Racine who is a church member. Her mother is a widow. She belongs to a large and influential family, although she herself has a very slender income. Mr. Bond rents a room in her house, and that helps pay Dinka's expenses, and gives us a convenient stopping place when any of us visit Racine. There is a younger sister who wants to come here next year. We believe Dinka's life is spared that she may do some special work for the Master, for she is a girl of strong Christian character. Never has there been a more marked change in any girl than we have seen in her, since she came, four years ago.

After Dinka's recovery, came Thanksgiving, written examinations, and preparations for Christmas. During the holidays, six girls had influenza, keeping the sick room occupied every day of vacation, but none lost a day of school! Two or three were quite ill; but, as I had taken my turn the last week of the term, we knew what to do for

them without calling the doctor.

Miss Florence Hodge spent a fortnight in our station, helping prepare our Christmas ship, and cheering us all with her bright ways. Her coming was a blessing.

Mrs. Bond has not recovered fully from her influenza of the second week in January. She was at church yesterday, but goes out very little yet.

Our numbers increased, soon after the opening of the year, to seventeen boarders and twenty day-pupils. There are very few troublesome girls among them.

Dr. Howe's annual visit to our school was made Jan. 31 – Feb. 4. We were sorry that some delay in his tickets prevented his arrival until the evening of the "day of prayer," but he led the C. E. meeting on Friday, and a specially helpful service for our girls on Sunday evening, Feb. 3, "Decision day." His sermon that morning was one long to be remembered.

All our older girls and several of the younger ones are church members, and we believe they are true Christians. Two were received into the church in the fall, but

they had decided for Christ last year.
There are reasons to believe that some of the six boarders who are outside of the visible church, are trying to follow Christ.

One day pupil, a little daughter of Mr. Petroff, was called to a higher school, on Nov. 8. She was seven years old — a sweet child whom we all loved. Meningitis was the disease. Scarlet fever is very prevalent this year, and one little day pupil has had that; another is absent because her sister has it. We are very thankful that it has not entered our home. There has not been a year like this, for sickness in the city, since '89-'90.

March 26-

Mr. Bond came over tonight to read us a letter to the mission. The annual meeting is not to be held here in April, as our invitation was not accepted, so it is left for Samokov to have it in the summer. We do not feel equal to entertaining so many guests just after the school year closes, when the mercury is sometimes in the 90's, and when we are too tired to be agreeable hostesses. Mrs. Bond has not efficient help and cannot take all, nor should

we wish that, if she could. We should do our part. But Samokov wishes the meeting, we have heard.

We rejoice at the prospect of welcoming new workers to our mission. The need is great. What a grand field is open to Mr. and Mrs. Lolway, if they shall be located at Salonica. Personally, I hope they will be.

We are bereaved, indeed, in losing Dr. Riggs from the mission, but his works do follow him. His has been a blessed record. I saw him but twice — at Constantinople, in '80, when I was "on the way" to Monastir, and at my first annual meeting at Samokov, in April, '89, when he was the oldest and I was the youngest of the mission. The Bulgarian Bible and Hymnbook constantly recall his services for this people.

The condition of the country is somewhat disturbed, but we do not anticipate serious trouble here. Our Vali-pasha kept good order at the time of the Greek war, for which he received special decorations.

Speaking of him reminds me of his prompt response to Miss Cole's petition, last fall. A neighbor, whose house-wall is a

boundary of our compound, opened a window directly from his kitchen into our back yard, about six hours after Mr. Bond had gone to Oxeleß. He had not said a word to us. At that time we had no consul, as Italy had dropped us and Austria had not yet taken us up. We called upon the neighbor and told him our objections to such a window, and he acknowledged our right. We understood him to say that he would close it, but the next day, Saturday, the workmen went on to complete it. We said that we should be sorry, to appeal to the government, but that that would be necessary, if he did not close it. He may have thought we had no way of doing that, for he paid no heed. So, on Saturday, towards evening, we went to see Stephanaki Bey, the head of the Christian population. His wife was a pupil at the College at Constantinople. They are very pleasant people and speak English well. He promised to help us, and was kind enough to put our petition into Turkish and send it up for Miss Cole's signature on Monday morning. The result was, that the Vali

sent a policeman, Tuesday afternoon, to see about the window and it was closed in little more than an hour. Since then, this neighbor bows to us when he meets us on the street, which he never did before! If this window had been allowed, it might have been a precedent for others. We understand that this same man has thought of — and talked of — putting up a two-story dormitory, on our line, for the Bulgarian Boys' school. This would have injured our property for a girl's school. He may have been experimenting with the small window, to see if we really would prevent it. When Mr. Bond returned he seemed to be inclined to sympathize with the neighbor, but the deed was done, and there has been no reason to regret it. It seemed the right thing to do, though we were sorry it became necessary. Stephanaki Bey and his wife said it ought to be done.

I wish there were time to tell you of our little children. They are so good and so interested in school. One day their teacher was tardy a few moments, on

account of the sickness of another teacher. When she entered the primary room, she found the scholars all in their places at the little tables, studying. They asked her why she was late — if she had not heard the bell.

There is much more that might be said, if time would permit. I hope to write again before very long.

Please pray earnestly for God's blessing upon our work continually. I am sure you do. Without that blessing it is in vain that we labor.

I wonder how Mrs. Barton has been, this winter. Please give her my love.

Very sincerely yours,

Mary L. Matthews.

Monastir, Sept. 13, 1901

MAR 24 1902
MAR 24 1902

Monastir, Eur. Turkey.
Feb. 3. 1902.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D.
Boston, Mass.

My dear Dr. Barton;-

I did not think, when I received your letter and Mrs. Barton's, about the time you went to India, that I should be silent so long. I intended to write to you both while you were in India, but the extra work at the close of the year, and Miss Cole's preparations to go to the homeland, kept us very busy until July. Then we started, with Miss Stone, for Samokov for our yearly gathering and were caught in quarantine at Tsaribrod, on the Servian-Bulgarian border. There we were kept eight days. Of course it gave us time to write letters, but we had little confidence that they were sent, so I did not write many. Some of those we sent were lost.

You heard from Miss Stone's pen, perhaps, the story of our experiences. We had learned from the Servian consul, in Salonica, that Servia expected to put on quarantine against Turkey in a few days,

Feb 13 1902

and then Bulgaria would lift it at Tearibrod. By delaying longer, it seemed probable that Miss Cole would be unable to leave Turkey to join the Clarkes, and her passage was engaged on the steamer. We decided to try to get through, and supposed that, if caught, we could serve out our time somewhere in Servia, as Mr. and Mrs. Bond did. But the authorities refused to let us go back, so we took up our abode in a hut of one room in the quarantine village. Miss Pavlova was with us, and a Turkish and a Roumanian woman also shared our room. It might have been worse in many ways, although it was very trying to lose so much of our meeting. We expected to find the meeting closed and the friends departing, when we reached Samokov, but the brethren had been kind enough to drag the sessions along slowly, so we had the last day and a half of it. We shall not care to experience quarantine again. As Miss Stone said, "Once is enough in a lifetime." No doubt some things which we counted hard would seem easy to her now! Poor Miss Stone! How we watch for news of her deliverance from this captivity! We hope to hear something good before the end of this week. It is five months today since she and Mrs. Tsilka were taken. To rescue them is not an easy matter.

Feb. 11. 1902.

Our school year opened on Sept. 12. with an attendance of twenty nine. The boarders never came so promptly before. We were able to begin recitations the next day, and classes have made unusual progress. We have the largest enrollment in many years, (forty), and the boarding department is the largest in the history of the school. There are twenty two girls, all from outside of Monastir. (One year when we had twenty one boarders, five were from this city.) More girls than usual are in the higher classes. There is no fourth class (to graduate), but the third class ('03) consists of eight girls, of whom we may reasonably expect to graduate five or six next year. They are wide awake and interested in their lessons, but two are behind their class in mathematics. All are active Christians, and there is the promise of several good workers from that class.

There has not been such unusual interest as might be called a revival, but the Spirit has been working upon the hearts of nearly, or quite, all of the pupils in one way or another. Regular and thorough Bible study, the quiet times morning and evening for private reading and prayer, and the usual religious services, have had

their influence.

The Day of Prayer for schools and colleges was a good day to us. In the afternoon separate meetings were held for the church members and for those who were not. Then followed a general meeting led by Mr. Bond in the school-room. When he asked those to raise hands who would decide for Christ then, some hands were half-raised but he did not see them and the opportunity passed. Feeling sure that some were very near the kingdom, I invited, in the evening, those who desired, to write notes, to tell us of any help the day had brought them. Fourteen responded, seven of whom said they had decided to live for Christ. After personal conversations with them, we could not help believing that these girls are sincere in their purpose. Five are from protestant homes and such girls naturally begin to follow Christ in their first or second year in school. The other seven notes were from professing Christians. Some desired our prayers that they might live better lives. There were acknowledgments of failure or wrong example, and expressions of determination to work for the salvation some particular persons ~~salvation~~. Each of the members chose some other girl for whom to pray and work especially. We trust the impetus received on that

day will continue through the lives of many of our girls".

I cannot be too thankful for the faithful helpers I have, in Miss Cole's absence. Miss Pavlova and Miss Setchanova continue as last year. Miss Kolchagova of Banska and Miss Elenka Popova of the Samokov G.B.S., 1901, are our new teachers. All are earnest Christians and have a positive influence for good. We never had more capable assistants and we all work together most harmoniously.

You have found out what Miss Cole needed. When you urged her to stay in one place for a long time, she settled down to rest as I had not supposed she could do. She writes that she feels much better. Omaha was just the place for her, with her friends who have been very kind. We should be glad of her help through June, for we are carrying heavy work this year, but I can't urge her leaving the homeland until she is ready, and there might be no through company for her in the spring.

We have invited annual meeting here, beginning April 24. It is five years since we had it, and we do not want to shirk our duty, but it will be rather hard to do it. Mrs. Bond is not

able to do much entertaining, and I expect to furnish meals for all guests, in House No. 1. The teachers will give up their rooms, as we have no guestroom, and they and the girls will help in every way possible. Otherwise, I should not dare to undertake it. Easter comes on April 27, this year, so our last term will be very short.

In the summer we expect to make additions to House No. 1. to enable us to take thirty boarders. We have the money, but we have waited to know if House No. 1 would be given to the school for permanent use. We do not know yet, but hope to hear before long that it is ours. A missionary family should not use that as a dwelling, for several reasons which we can see since we have had control of the compound.

Feb. 27. Thursday.

Last Sunday we received a telegram from Salonica, stating that the captives had reached Strumnitza. Since that joyful news came, we have heard nothing. We fear some of our letters are kept from us. We long to know more.

Perhaps I can see Miss Stone before she goes home, for I have had some teeth extracted and must go to Salonica to have them replaced, soon.

Miss Parlra is very reliable and I can get away more easily when all have their regular duties.

March 4 -

Still we have not heard of the arrival of the captives in Salonica. It is long to wait. I expect to go down on Friday of this week.

There is a possibility that Dr. F. E. Clarke and family will come to this part of the world soon, we hear from Berlin. We shall be very glad if they can come here, but hope there will be no unpleasant condition of the country at the time.

Evening.

While out calling, this afternoon, I heard from our consul's wife that Miss Stone and Mrs. Tsilka reached Salonica last week. It must be that our letters are kept. Our consul (Austrian) kindly permits us to send letters with his mail to the Austrian office in Salonica, which is a great convenience to us.

At one house we were told that thirty persons were brought here, today, and put in prison. Their friends are not allowed to see them. Arrests of suspected persons are made continually. The prisons are full. The state of the country is very

bad. There is great suffering, and many of the sufferers are innocent. All the teachers at Racine, four hours away, have been brought to jail here. There is great need that the powers should take up the matter of reforms in this country. An autonomy would solve many problems. The country is honey-combed with Bulgarian "committee" work. Of course it was a political mistake to take the ladies. Much sympathy for the Bulgarians has been lost thereby.

All Bulgarians do not approve of that step, however much they may desire liberty here. There are many noble characters in that nation, but civilization, without the fear of God, leads to license, not true liberty, and infidelity is widespread. It is very sad to see this nation, which might become great in the best sense, turning away from the true Light. (At present, it would not be well to print such items as the above, over the name of a missionary, for obvious reasons.)

It is too late to write more tonight. I really intend to do better about writing to you in future. It takes so much time to do things, that I find very little left in which to tell of them!

Very sincerely yours,

Mary L. Matthews.

Norwalk, O.
Dec 31, 1902

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MAR 24 1902

Personal.

Monastir, Feb. 27. 1902.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D.
Boston, Mass.

My dear Dr. Barton;-

You kindly told me, once, that I might write to you about matters which I would not wish to put in an official letter - and there are one or two points upon my mind, just now.

We are wondering what has been done about Mr. Richardson. We in this station are hoping he will not be sent to our mission. Miss Cole and I, at least, feel that, if he has not been to blame in the other mission, that is the place for him to "live down" what has been said about him. We have seen him and his wife, and have heard about them - twice they have visited here - so that we fear it would be risking the harmony of our station to have them come. If sent to Kortcha, they would be here more or less, no doubt, as we would be their nearest American neighbors. I have hesitated about expressing any views. The mission vote to call them, was passed when

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we (all of our station) were in quarantine. I think it is the Bairds, chiefly, who have brought it about, as Mr. Richardson is Mrs. Baird's brother. I know she wants him to come.

While I am writing my opinions, may I add one more? I do not want to say too much, but I do feel that missionary children are not always the best fitted to take up the work. George March will be the next one, perhaps. I have heard that his parents want him in Philippopolis. Those whom I have heard speak of him, think that he will do just as his father says — that he is less independent than Ben. I do not know much about him, myself, but I do think that the March-Clarke element in our mission is about as strong as it needs to be. That was the force which — apparently for family reasons — to keep Mr. and Mrs. Clarke in Samokov, we thought — sent Mr. Baird to Salonica in '89, against his own judgment and that of those who knew him and his health-limitations best. Of course, as it was voted, he had to go, but it was evident to many of us that he couldn't stay there, and so it proved. He can work in Samokov and is happy there. (Mr. and Mrs. Clarke would have been glad to go to Salonica, we heard from her, afterwards.)

You will be glad to know that our station has been harmonious, this year. We are learning how to disagree peaceably! Some of our difficulties were removed a few years ago – by your letters and Dr. House's words, I think. Certain points of difference are never mentioned now. There have been some waves, but at present the waters are smooth.

How we longed for a visit from yourself and Mrs. Barton when you passed so near us! The papers have brought some accounts and a few pictures relating to your visit in India, which are very interesting. I am so glad the trip has done Mrs. Barton good.

March 6 – Thursday.

Mr. Bond has been called to Salonica, by telegram, to take his camera with him, and Mrs. Bond does not feel like staying at home without him, so they go down today, and I shall wait until their return. It would not be wise for all three of us to be absent from the station at the same time. We do not know what may take place here this spring; and, in case of an outbreak, an American might be able to do, with God's blessing, what others could not, for safety of persons and property. Whatever you may hear, do not think

I am sorry to be here. Even if personal danger should come to us, which we hope will not be, my life is not so valuable as many which have been given up in recent years for missionary work. Do not cease to pray for better conditions in this land, and for strength and wisdom for us as we need, day by day. It is a comfort that my mother will have no anxious suspense to endure, whatever occurs. She is beyond all such trials.

Circumstances may prevent our having the rest of the mission visit us in April, as they approve of doing. We shall see. Every year there have been rumors of trouble which have not been realized, and perhaps it will be so this year.

We are feeling very proud of our trustees, just now. Miss Stone has become world-famous, and Dr. House accomplished her rescue, with God's blessing. I am so glad he had that joy, for the burden rested very heavily upon him and Mrs. House.

Please give a great deal of love to Mrs. Barton from me. I would write to her, too, if I could. I did appreciate her letter, written when she was just leaving home.

Yours very sincerely,
Mary E. Matthews.

Worcester, Mass.
Feb. 27, 1902

Rec'd DEC 27 1902
Ans'd DEC 31 1902

American School
Monastir, European Turkey
Oct. 21. 1902

My dear Friends, Dr. and Mrs. Barton:-

If you could see the pile of unanswered letters which faces me whenever I open my desk, and if you could know what a busy life a boarding school teacher leads, you might be charitable enough to excuse me for sending you a kettanesh letter. Especially in Miss Cole's absence, last year, when the charge of the school fell upon me, it was difficult to find time for personal correspondence. Business letters required much time, and other duties crowded out many things which I longed have been glad to do. So don't think, pray, I am in that receiving too many letters, that I never write one, but I try to do better in accordance with your wishes.

This is a beautiful fall day, though cool enough to need a little fire for comfort. There has been no frost, and the leaves are still green on the trees — all but my little maple, which is dropping its red and gold. This tree grew from seed which Mother sent me twelve years ago, and is the only maple I know of, in this country.

The summer was a very unusual one for us, and there was little opportunity for rest.

The public exhibition at the close of last year, on June 27, was successful. There was no class to be graduated, but the exercises, consisting of recitations, compositions, dialogues, and singing, also calisthenics (the classes being dressed in uniforms), held the attention of the audience of nearly three hundred, for

There little photos are not "official": I ask for them - as he sent my little camera.
Clark
I hope to do better work, someday.

more than two hours. The governor sent a representative with his regrets that he could not come in person. Also the Commander of the army did the same. The chief of police was here, as a year ago. The exercises were in English and Bulgarian.

It was five days before the teachers and girls had left, so that Miss Rada Pavleva (our first assistant, who was to stay with me,) and I myself could take a little rest.

The permit required for adding the much-needed rooms to the other building, was secured only after ten days of effort and the payment of $4.40. When we had little hope of getting this soon, we arranged for a tour in the Salonica field. However, the permit was in our hands before we started. It seemed advisable to follow our plan for the tour, returning as soon as possible for the building.

We visited Gevgeli, Kavardartzi, Velis, Vekub and Vishtina, all on the line of railroad north from Salonica. We spent two or three days in each place, holding women's meetings, visiting from house to house as we were invited, and meeting twelve of our pupils in their own homes. It was possible, then, to realize something of the good done by a Christian school, as we compared our girls with those who had never been given such opportunities. It was very warm, most of the time, and there were various small hindrances to quiet rest at night, but we were glad to have made the tour and hope it was not without benefit to the women and girls in those places.

We had hoped to visit Bogdantsi, too, but the day we were to go there, the friend who had cordially invited us, came over to Gevgeli, and said he supposed we ought to know that there was smallpox in nearly every house in Bogdantsi — in his own home too.

brother was sick with that disease — but "would we mind going just the same?" We declined the invitation for the present, to his surprise and disappointment, and went on to the next place. There we were cordially welcomed at the home of one of our pupils, and found that unusual preparations had been made for our coming. Most homes could not boast of a bedstead, but this was a well-to-do family and possessed two large double beds. Both of these had been set up in the small room intended for us, (and we had with us a cot bed wide enough for two persons!) We could not let all the family sleep upon the floor, while we were so well provided for, so we insisted upon the removal of one large bed, before we slept.

While on this tour we did what we could to reconcile the father of a former pupil with his daughter who had married against his wishes. She was about twenty two years of age, and was a teacher, when a young man — a Protestant — whom she had not seen, offered her his heart and hand. It is the custom, here, for the girl's relatives to give a sum of money, with her, to the young man, but this would-be husband was ready to take her without any dowry. Her father opposed the marriage and said that anyone who would give him twenty five liras (£10.) might have his daughter! Whereupon the daughter was offended, and, being of age, took matters into her own hands and married the suitor! When we called at her father's home, he did not want to hear her name. However, by trying to do something for his little lame boy, we did get the man to send greetings — "much health" — to the daughter whom we were to see later. We advised her to go home for a visit in grape-harvest — surely, she would not be turned out — and her sweet

tle Rosa would soften her grandfather's hard heart, and delight her grandmother who so long had wanted to see her.

Returning to Salonica, we had some sea-baths, but with what a crowd of women!) did some shopping, and brought Mrs. E. B. Haskell and her three dear children up here for a month, as Salonica is too warm, in July and August, for health — to say nothing of comfort — especially for little children.

The day we came back, work was begun on the foundation of the new rooms. Then the sound of hammer and other tools was heard for about five weeks. The work was not completed until a week after school opened, but we now have two good recitation rooms below, and a dormitory above. Thus we have been able to receive eighteen girls. No donation has been done to day, as it is said that all the boarders we expected did not come; next year we look for a larger attendance.

Miss Cole came on Aug. 30, a little earlier than we had expected her, and we were glad to see her. She had a hard journey, and malaria found her out as soon as she arrived, but when school opened, on September 11, she was able to take her own place as principal. This was a great relief to me, for I had had heavy work in her absence and so many extra things to do in the vacation, that I was very tired. The oversight of the building and keeping the accounts for it, took much time, and supplies must be laid up in store for the coming year, besides business correspondence in regard to pupils, and the annual housecleaning. In all this, Miss Helena was a capable and willing assistant, giving

cheerfully of her time and strength wherever most needed. Since school has been in session, I have rested a good deal, and hope to be able to write more frequently to my friends, as well as to the Secretaries with whom it is my pleasant duty to correspond.

We have twenty boarders and eighteen day pupils. We had good reason to expect more boarders, but one new girl did not come because she became engaged instead; two, because we were not ready to adopt them and pay all their bills; a few, because their parents do not appreciate education for their daughters enough to pay the required charge — reduced in every case. As it is a year of much sickness, and the new dormitory had not dried soon as we expected, it may be providential that we have not the twenty five or thirty we had supposed would come. Several are preparing at their homes to come next year. All who came had been here before, and the discipline of the school is very easy. There has been one case of tonsillitis and five of malaria, besides several severe colds. The fogs we are having, may bring more sickness.

Dec. 2. '02

Since this letter was begun, I have had to spend a week in Salonica for dentistry. (I am thankful there is a fairly good dentist so near. It is only one hundred and thirty six miles, and takes only ten hours to go down.) I had a delightful visit at Mrs. Haskell's. One day a party of us drove out to the new "Industrial Farm", the purchase of which was completed the day before Thanksgiving. There are no buildings upon it yet, but it is in a good location, an hour by carriage from the city, and there is a pretty view of Salonica Bay, on one side, and of mountains on the other. There are fifty three acres, at $16.60 per acre. It is hoped that this will be paid for by extra gifts — not drawing away regular contributions to the Board — and that it may become the site of a rather institution like Hampton and Tuskegee, though it must be started on a small scale.

One great privilege of last year was a visit with Miss
one. I went to Salonica three weeks after her release
d was detained there for dentistry, until her departure
r home two weeks later. You may have heard her tell
r thrilling story. How wonderful that she should
ave been the one to experience all this — for she is
pecially gifted as a writer and public speaker. Few
uld meet the demands made upon such a celebrity,
the public, as she is doing! That captivity was
severe strain upon all our mission, and when we
eived the telegram saying that the captives had been
ed that morning, it seemed too good to be true.

In April, we had the rare joy of entertaining guests
m the home land — They were the dear friends of
missionary work, Dr. and Mrs. F.E. Clark. Just think!
[illegible] my own guests and had four meals at our
[illegible] They went here by the [illegible] vessels, and from
[illegible] came on Monday evening [illegible] The girls
[illegible] to keep with them [illegible] and the
morning, Dr. Clark gave the girls a very helpful talk
morning prayers. They could understand him very well.
spoke without an interpreter. There were gymnastic
[illegible] by the girls, then Mrs. Clark "engaged" our prima-
children. The result may be seen in the "Life and Light"
or October (1902), p. 446. A carriage had been engaged
r a ride, at half past ten, and after seeing the city we
ad lunch at Mrs. Bond's home. At two o'clock, the Woman's
C. and that of our girls, held a joint meeting here, at
hich both Dr. and Mrs. Clark spoke to us, Miss Pavlova
[illegible] translating into Bulgarian. Mr. Bond took a photo of our
[illegible] with these two societies. Mrs. Clark had just
[illegible] to "organize" our eleven little "Juniors", before the lad-
[illegible] meeting, at the church, one hour before sunset. Supper
[illegible] a little visit in the evening [illegible] the tea-party
[illegible] have known. How hard it was to let these dear
[illegible] go away the next morning! But how thankful we
[illegible] for even this short visit! It meant so much to us, [illegible]
[illegible] (or you) can understand.

Two weeks after the visit of Dr. and Mrs. Clark, we had a delightful mission meeting here. For a week, I had twelve or fourteen very congenial friends at my table, and the teachers and girls were so ready to help in every way, that I was able to attend nearly every session of the meeting, and to feel rested after it, instead of being tired out. Mrs. Bond was not well, but she "slept" her part of the guests.

School work goes on smoothly, with Miss Cole in charge once more. We have, now, twenty boarders and twenty-one day pupils — seven nationalities being represented; Albanian, Greek, Gipsy, Roumanian, Servian, and Bulgarian, and one Jewess — but most of them are Bulgarians. I wish you could visit us and see these dear girls. You would have enjoyed the entertainment given by their C.E., last Friday evening. It was not public, but the teachers enjoyed it, especially because they had not known what was on the program. The girls did the work — and did it well. Their C.E. Thanksgiving meeting was very interesting. Looking back over the past year, I can see much to be thankful for, in the Christian lives of our girls. Some have made more progress than they themselves realize, probably. Some have, for the first time, declared their purpose to live for the Master. The five who are working for diplomas next June, all are earnest Endeavorers and we hope they will do much good among their own people.

This has grown into a longer letter than I had expected to write. You may be tired before you have read it all — but I promise not to inflict such an epistle upon you often. Miss Cole's visits with many of my friends last year have made me long to see them for myself, but that may not be yet.

I am so glad the trip to India did you so much good, Mrs. Barton. I wanted to write you while you were there, but the time passed so quickly! I wish you could have come to see us.

You were very kind to write me shortly before you started. I blessed Christmas and New Year to you both and your children — most cordially yours. Mary E. Matthews.

Worcester, Oct. 21, 02

Rec'd DEC 27 1902

Ans'd DEC 31 1902

Monastir, European Turkey.
Dec. 6. 1902.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D.
Congregational House,
Boston, U. S. A.

Dear Dr. Barton;-

I am making a desperate effort to catch up with my correspondents, who have had about forty five letters the start of me, for a long time. May I send you a copy of a letter which I am sending them? It is longer than I usually have time to write to anyone; for, even since Miss Cole's return, there is more than enough to occupy us both.

It is a long time since I wrote to you, but I have not intended to be silent so long, and then I knew you would hear from the station through Mr. Bond's reports.

We are glad to have Miss Cole here, again, and hope she will be well enough really, to enjoy her work, soon. The climate does not seem to agree with her, and that may have been the cause of more trouble in the past than any of us realized. Just now, she

is having an attack of influenza, which frequently is epidemic after such fogs as we have had this winter. But she is better and may be out in a few days. She has done her school work very nearly all the time, in spite of her malaria,— which however, has left her now.

Mr. Bond is having a hard time. He has been sick for two weeks, and has had another operation. The surgeon here thinks he will have to go to Salonica, again, but he cannot travel until he is better. Touring, after the October operation, seems to have been bad for him, but the Salonica surgeon said he might do it.

We were greatly shocked by the news of Miss Child's death. The reports in "The Congregationalist" are all we have seen about it. It is a personal loss to Miss Cole and myself, as I am sure it is to all the missionaries of our Board. For her, it is gain, not loss, and no sadness seems connected with her going, excepting in the loneliness of those she has left. How her sister must miss her! Every

thought of her is an inspiration to nobler living, and more earnest work. How blessed to be ready to go as she did - and what a bright crown she must be wearing now!

You may have noticed that I wrote no report of the school, for the last year. That was in accordance with your letter and the new handbook. You said it was "unfortunate to have the woman's work set aside as being a peculiar work by itself and different from the other work of the mission." As we are four, in our station, now, we can have but one delegate, and therefore no special delegate from the school. This cuts off the teachers from attending annual meeting, unless we entertain it, or pay our own traveling expenses. Mr. Bond would give us a chance to serve as delegates if we wished; but we teachers, if faithful to our own work, cannot know as much as he does about the rest of the station work, nor take the responsibility of representing it. Also, as mission secretary, he should be present, if possible. This new ruling about women may be an advance in some ways, but it is a backward step for our school, which

for many years has had its own delegate to mission meeting. If woman's work is not different from other work, why should there be any rent to pay for House No. 1, when used by the school? Since having to get the permit (in Mr. Bond's absence,) for adding new rooms to that building, I have been convinced that it should stand, as now, like a residence — for the law allows of changes in such houses which could not be made in buildings "written" as schools. It was not the use to which the rooms would be put, which caused a delay of ten days in securing the permit, but the fact that the officials supposed it was the main building which we wished to enlarge, and that is "written" as a school. This difference we did not understand, when we asked that House No. 1 should be made over to the school. All this shows that, if payment of any kind must be made, the rent plan is best. I may be stupid, but I confess I do not see why there should be such distinctions in regard to property when there are none in other respects. Or, since distinctions as to property are necessary, why not make some on other questions?

The enclosed letter is personal rather than official. I am sending twenty five copies and shall have to make more. There seemed to be no other way of answering my correspondents.

Dec. 11.

It is very cold tonight — 15° above zero, (7.). The coldest, last winter, so far as I knew, was 22°. It is a glorious evening. Everything is covered with snow and the moon shines brightly. There must be much suffering from the unusual cold.

You may have heard, from our neighbor-station, of other kinds of suffering in some of the villages. We do not anticipate danger to ourselves, here, although we do not know what may come in the spring. We are glad some of our girls are not at home, just now. They have not been told, yet, of the troubles there, and perhaps they need not know until matters have quieted down.

Mr. Bond is better, and hopes he may not have to go to Salonica.

Miss Cole has written to you to send by this post. I hope our letters will reach you safely.

Yours most sincerely,

Mary L. Matthews.

Monroe, Dec. 6, '02

Rec'd APR 21 1903

Ans'd APR 23 1903

Monastir, Eur. Turkey.
March 26. 1903.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D.
Congregational House, Boston, U.S.A.

My dear Dr. Barton;-

Your letter of Jan. 1 was very welcome, and I intended to reply at once, but various hindrances have prevented it, though I have devoted a little time to making some photos for you. It is great fun to make them, and this form of recreation tempts one to give more time to it than I really can spare. I knew it would and never dared to buy a camera, but a gift could not be refused. If you like the results, you may thank Dr. and Mrs. F. E. Clark. Of course there is no charge for any pictures I send. Just now I am waiting for more films, ordered some time ago, and more materials for developing.

What I called the "new ruling" about women, was the counting of married and unmarried women as on an equality, so to speak, with the men, on all questions. It was first put in operation in our mission, last year; and, according to the

Handbook, p. 5, line 3, our station has but one delegate, instead of two as formerly. In regard to the report of the school, I was glad to think, as the work is all one, that one report from the station would be sufficient, and asked Mr. Bond to give more space than usual to our school, in his report. My hands were more than full, in Miss Cole's absence, and it became necessary for me to provide for all the entertainment of guests at the annual meeting, last spring, as Mrs. Bond was not able to do more than sleep five of the visitors. It proved less difficult than I had expected, thanks to the cheerful and efficient help of teachers and girls, but I could not have done much more. Of course, separate reports are more useful to you, and in future we shall try to prepare ours as in the past. Under the circumstances, it is not likely, that any one can go from our station to the mission meeting, two weeks from now. All will be needed here, if trouble should occur just then, which some think probable.

In the last few days we have heard that the various so-called Christian races are not united in the plans, which makes it doubtful whether

any very serious outbreak could take place in this city. There is enough to make us anxious for the effects of all this disturbance in the outlying country. There is much military activity — extra trains, sending trained soldiers and bringing raw recruits — and, some say, ten thousand soldiers in the city. Good order is kept, here, so that we go on the streets as usual, but we do not venture far out of the city. We do not know what the future will bring. We have some extra food supplies for the school. Some neighbors have our compound in mind, as a place of refuge, but that may not be necessary. If it should be, we shall try to do the best we can. God will care for us. It is a comfort to know that friends are praying for us.

April 2. Our routine of school work goes on as usual. We teachers are pretty well, but tired, especially Miss Pavlova who had little rest last summer. She never shrinks from anything she can do to help, in term or vacation, and I cannot be too thankful for her faithful support, and that of the other teachers, during Miss Cole's absence.

Two of our boarders were received into the church, at the last communion. We are very glad of this. Others are interested, and, on the whole, our

boarders are trying to do right. There is, in some cases, the tendency to think that church-membership would save, but we do not want our girls to make that mistake and be received until there is a change of heart. All the older girls are active Christian Endeavorers. The picture in "The C.E. World", three or four months ago, was not ours at all. Later, it appeared again, representing Brazilian Endeavorers!

A day we shall not soon forget was Mar. 14. A chimney burned out, and we had an hour of hard work, with the kind help of some neighbors, to put out the fire which had spread to adjoining walls. How thankful we were that it was not night! It was just after supper. The havoc of the Roumanian school came to tell us that the chimney was burning; otherwise, we might not have discovered it in time. It has been a very cold winter and the chimney was full of soot. The girls made too hot a fire in their sitting-room. The damages were not over $3. now, but we must rebuild the chimney in the summer. That one made similar trouble, seven years ago.

How we shall miss Dr. and Mrs. House! They need a good rest. Salonica station is the

hardest working and most successful of our mission. Its members have faith enough to undertake and carry out large plans, and I am sorry that some in our mission are so conservative as to object to any new enterprises, and so often block, or try to block, the way for those who would accomplish much. I am especially sorry that our station cannot send a delegate to help that station at the annual meeting. Unless we are ready to advance and trust God to bless our efforts, we shall go on in the same old ruts, to the end of our labors. I am glad to see that Salonica means to do something more than other stations have done, and I hope "cold water" will not be thrown over it. The gentlemen there are unusually capable business men, and believe in going forward in the Master's work, on new lines as well as old, whenever it is possible.

Miss Cole sends her kindest regards to you. Enclosed is a picture, with my love, for Mrs. Barton. I would write more, if there were time. Perhaps another letter will follow this.

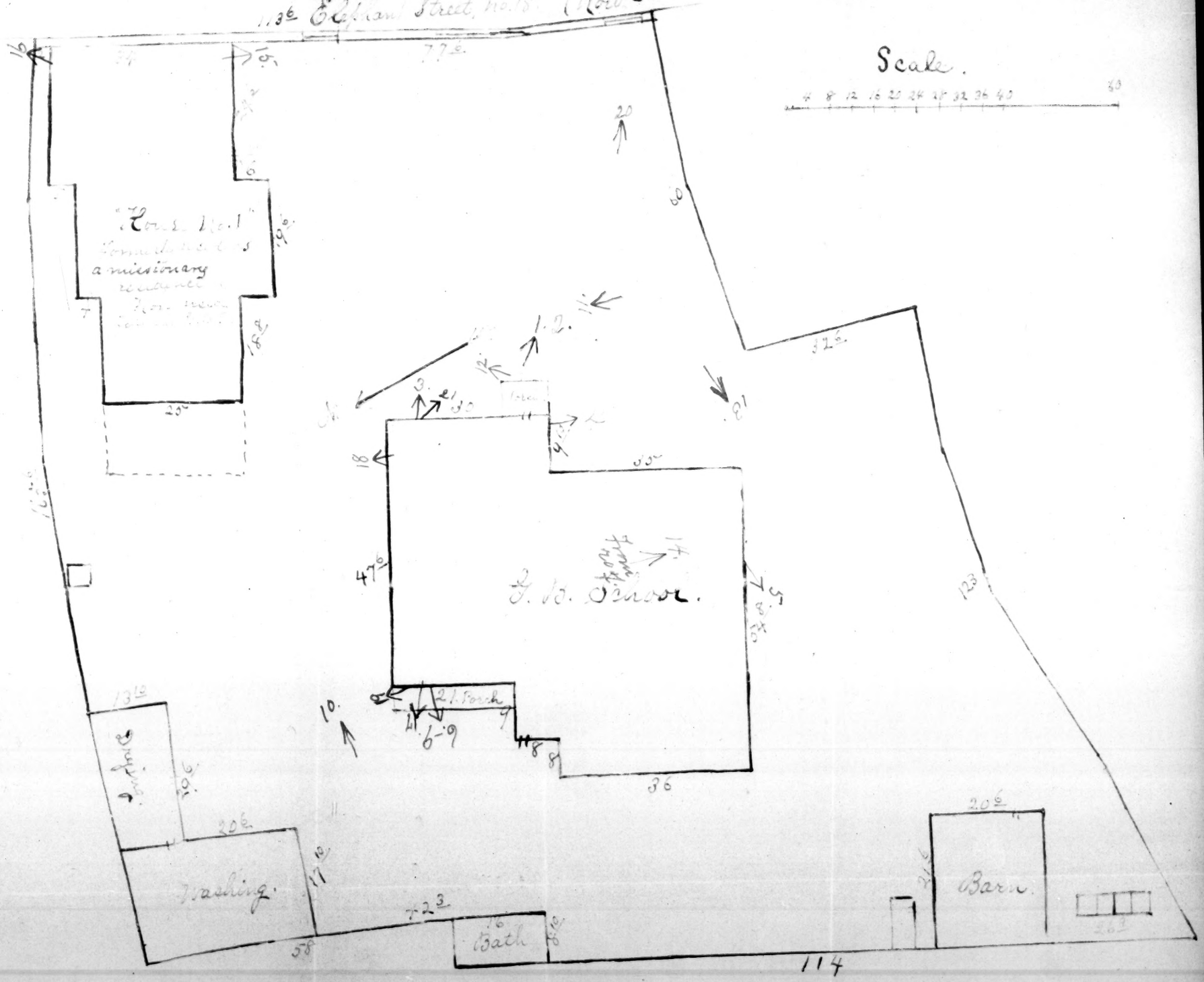
Yours most sincerely,

Mary L. Matthews.

Monastir, March 26, 1903

Plan of the premises of the American School for Girls
Monastir, European Turkey.

1901–02.



REC'D AUG 20 1903

Yours of April 23 was received. I hope my report reached you safely. Miss Cole is with us. Miss Stone is to Mrs. Barton, Farrol, Clara gives my love. Friends remember to all at the Rooms. I write here to save chance for pictures on the lake. I am glad to give you a lake. D.

Monastir, Aug. 3. 1903.

ANS'D SEP 8 1903

My dear Dr. Barton;-

I want to write you a letter this afternoon, as it is possible, that the train may go down to Salonica once more, before the bridges are destroyed. Probably, this is the last chance to write for a period of some days or weeks. The trouble has begun at Resin (or Racine). We hear that the khans there, where the T. soldiers staid, were burned last night. Dinka, of our class of '03, came back to us from Resin, Saturday night, accompanied by her uncle. Her friends made her come for safety, though she would not have chosen to leave her family. There was no place for others to ride, so they were left, in the hope that they might be able to come today. Now, that is not possible, and we shall wait anxiously, to know their fate. Dinka was the only person in Resin who had united with an evangelical church. We are thankful she is here. Miss Cole had told her to come, in case of danger.

We hear that the telegraph to Prelep is cut. Mr. Petroff is there. He went on Saturday, to look for a house, as he is to go there with his family, but we did not think, when we voted the change, that he would go just now. By waiting a month or two, there would be some hope of safety there. The church here needs a pastor – not simply a preacher who needs support – and we teachers had felt for some time that it was not a wise use of funds to aid in keeping Mr. Petroff here, under the circumstances. Personally, we have nothing against him – but his school was far from being successful (he had but two or three boys besides his own, and was very irregular as to hours, –) and his work now has been two sermons a month, (as Mr. Bond preached half the time, and had charge of the S.S. for which he is specially gifted.) We could not bear to hear Mr. Petroff preach all the time – so we begged Mr. Bond to do it sometimes. The church needs a pastor who will labor to build it up. No new men have been brought in, for several years, and several have had to be put out.

Miss Cole and I had hoped to go away, for part of the summer; but, while we might have gone, we were not sure we could get back, before we should be needed, so we staid. It was pleasant here and very restful through July, but neither of us felt like writing much. We served, and read, and made some calls, and thought we should still have time for letters later.

Now we are waiting to see how we can help the people who come to us. No doubt many will run to this compound in trouble comes in the city. Some say it will come day after to-morrow, Wednesday; others, that nothing will be done in large cities. But we must be ready.

Our police is friendly, for when he was sent here first, three months ago, he had a very serious wound on his foot, from the rubbing of his shoe, and Miss Parlevas was able to cure it for him in a week. He is very grateful. He has never caused us the least annoyance, and we have let him sleep in the yard. We have two Albanian Kavasses, also. We are not afraid for ourselves, and hope we can save some lives by being here. The thought of Miss Shattuck's bravery helps me at this time.

This afternoon I have toned a few pictures for you. Others have been ready for some time. Our windows command many pretty views. From the roof we can see all the city. You may be able to understand this rude chart. I would prepare it better, if there were time.

May I give you my brothers' addresses? There may be no need for you to use them, but it will do no harm to give them. Mr. John G. Matthews, 201 Lawrence St. Cincinnati, Ohio, and Mr. Robert F. Matthews, R.F.D. No. 1. Albion, Orleans Co. New York. I wrote them two days ago.

It is a comfort that friends are remembering us in prayer — we are sure they are doing so. We are more quiet than some of our friends, probably. Miss Cole is very brave when the need comes. It is harder for her to dread it, than to meet the real trial.

In "The Soul's Inquiries Answered" there were very comforting messages on May 6, the day of the first trouble here, and on July 15. Whatever comes to us, it is right that we are here, and we can leave the future with God. May His kingdom be advanced by all these events.

Mr. Lawrence Matthews
Monastir, Aug. 3, 1903

c'd DEC 7 1903

Ans'd JAN 22 1904

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Monastir, European Turkey.
Nov. 20. 1903.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D.
Congregational House, Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Barton;-

As I have no more mission paper, I think you will excuse me for using this.

Your good letter of Sept. 8 was very welcome. It is a great comfort to know that many pray for the work here and for us. but we do not deserve commendation for bravery. We simply believed this to be the place where we might be needed most; and, at the same time, it seemed the safest we could choose for our vacation. Therefore, we should not be called brave. Mr. Haskell has proved his Christian courage by going where there was need and danger, too, but God kept him safe. We all are in God's hands. and we may be in no more danger here than you are on any railroad train.

When there is such suffering among the Bulgarian people, especially the poor villagers who have lost everything, we think our trials are very light.

And now, to make their condition worse, small pox has broken out among the Smelevo refugees here in the city. Many are sick and the disease is spreading. We are especially sorry that now it is impossible for our teachers to visit the women as they have done. Miss Kolchagova has given her Sunday mornings to work among them, and she found some eager listeners.

We are vaccinating our household and the day-pupils who need it. Just now our twenty boarders are well, but we had an epidemic of tonsilitis, this fall. Eleven girls, three teachers, our servant girl, and a kavass, all were sick within a month. Some were sick only a day or two — others, a week or more. As Miss Detchanova's parents refused to let her return here, this year, she is teaching at her home, (in Philippopolis.) but it is hard for us, for we have one less teacher in the house. Two of our graduates who live in the city are helping us, as day-teachers. We have nineteen day pupils.

We want to take some orphan girls into the school, and can take as many as ten, if we can find friends to give the required three liras for each. We must have a little extra money for shoes and other clothing, also. One girl has come — a very hopeful girl of thirteen years — from Recen

Her stepfather was killed last summer. The wedding outfits of this Katerina and her sister were stolen by T. soldiers who discovered the place where the boxes had been buried - Everything was taken, and now the mother, two daughters, and a son have about one acre of land to support them all.

Mr. Hackell let us hectograph his report of the first days of relief-work, and we have been sending some copies to our personal friends to interest them in helping the orphans. Mr. Hackell wishes you to have a copy, so I enclose one - He went to Salonica yesterday, expecting to return next week, and we expect him and Mr. and Mrs. Bond to have Thanksgiving dinner with us and the school. We bought the turkeys, today.

It is not cold, now, though once it was cold enough for ice - The mercury is above 60°F. today.

We enjoyed the newspaper report of the Board meeting, two weeks after it was over. I am glad Dr. House and Miss Stone could be present.

I should like to have a furlough next year, but am making no plans yet. Unless the country should be quiet, I may be needed here. The way will be made plain in time.

Please give my love to Mrs. Barton. Miss Cole joins me in kindest regards to yourself -

Yours sincerely, Mary L. Matthews.

Mohaster, Nov. 20, 1903

Rec'd MAY 11 1904

Monastir, March 31. 1904.

Dear European Turkey Mission;-

Again it comes to pass that whatever we teachers have to say to "the annual meeting" must be communicated by writing or by speech of others. Monastir is too far from Samokov to permit either of us to leave the other with all the responsibility of the school in these uncertain times, much as we should like to be present. We hope it will be a good meeting in every way.

Perhaps I might have saved you a little time by starting my request as a circular vote a few weeks ago, but knowing that it may be more satisfactory for you to discuss the matter freely in the meeting, I have waited to give you the opportunity. I will ask only this, that you will let me know your decision as early as possible, (by telegram, if you please,) because the time for preparation is very short, and after hearing from you, I must write to Boston for permission.

It has become clear that, before very long, I must have a vacation in the home land. Next year will be the best time, probably, as two or three of the higher branches will not have to be taught. There will still be work enough to be done; and in these times and with an increase of about fifty percent in the number of boarders, it would not be right to leave Miss Cole without an American helper. I can be spared, however, if you favor my having a furlough beginning at the end of June and if you approve our plan for a substitute. Miss Cole would be very glad to ask a young lady friend in the U. S., who has had some years of experience in city missionary work, to come to our school for a year. This lady has been looking forward to a trip to Europe at her own expense, and it has been in her heart to visit Miss Cole and Miss Pavlova. (The latter was her classmate in the Bible Training School in New York.) There is good reason to believe that if we could offer her the latter half of my salary for 1904, and a special sum of twenty five liras (asked for in our estimates for 1905.) that she would be willing to come to

the aid of the school, for next year, as an assistant teacher. She is loved and respected wherever she goes, and she can be very useful here, although she does not know Bulgarian.

This, then, is our desire. It will be nearly eight years since my return to the mission in the Fall of 1896. In case of disturbances here, it may be necessary to remain, but we do not know the future and it may be quiet so that I can go without leaving too great a burden upon the other teachers.

Let us thank you for favoring the orphanage-to-be, for we believe it is one of the best ways to carry on the missionary work in our field. We are ready to work hard, and we do not begrudge the extra time and strength given to our orphans this winter. I hope, if it should please you to desire my return, that I shall find the orphanage prospering and may have the pleasure of watching the faces of the children brighten, as we have seen those of our orphans change, even in this short time.

Will the writer of "the letter to the Rooms" be so kind as to urge our need of the

adjoining land? The estimate is for the rear of the lot, only. Just for the privilege of passing through, to and from Mr. Bond's, we pay three liras a year. We dare not ask for the entire property, but should do so, certainly, if we had more courage. (There are two houses upon the front of the lot.) But it will be a great mistake if we fail to do all that is in our power towards securing the part which joins our compound, although the W.B.M.S. could not give it to us last year -

With kind greetings to you all.

Yours sincerely,

Mary L. Matthews.

Letter to Missionary Women, March 31, 1904

1 copy

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Rec'd APR 28 1904

Ans'd MAY 4 1904

Monastir, Eur. Turkey.
April 11. 1904.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D.
Congregational House, Boston, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Barton;-

Your kind letter of Jan. 23 reached me on Feb. 10, and since then our hands and hearts have been more than full. Besides extra care for the new girls from the burned villages, we have had a dangerous case of pneumonia which has taken much of our strength and time, the last month. For one week, Miss Pavlova and I were obliged to leave all our school work and care for the sick girl, night and day. She knew her own danger and said she was not afraid to die. Her mother and a brother had died of the same disease, and she thought she was going in the same way. But we had a good doctor, and God blessed the means used, so she is now recovering, though not yet able to leave

Monastir Mch 31 1904
Letter to Mr. Barton

the sickroom. We hope she will do better work for the Master because of this sickness. She has one more year of study before receiving her diploma.

Mr. and Mrs. Bond are in Samokov, at the Annual Meeting, which is a very important one, this year. We do not know who will be sent here in their places. That is the question which touches our station most seriously. It should be some man of experience and good judgment, who will be able to lead the people instead of being led by them. Mr. Haskell knows this field well, and in the relief work this winter he has come so near to the villagers, that he seems the best man for the place, but he may not be aspiring to the honor!

Another matter of considerable moment to us, concerns myself. It seems that, for the school, next year will be the most favorable time for me to have a furlough. Of course, circumstances may be such, before summer, that we cannot send our girls home, and then I cannot be spared. If specially needed, I shall remain, but it seems

best to make arrangements so I can go if the way opens. This is the eighth school-year since my return in 1896. I feel the need of a change, but I am not sick, and do not wish to be. I should not go until the first of July, and not then unless I can leave Miss Cole provided with such help as she needs for next year.

If the Prudential Committee grants my furlough, which I herewith request, is it unreasonable to ask, also, a special grant to provide extra assistance in my absence? On Saturday evening, I received a telegram from Mr. Extander, saying, "Furlough granted. Seventy liras special", as the vote of the mission. Now, I write to you, hoping the Board can approve of the action, and as time is so short, may I ask you to cable me the result of your consideration of the matter?

There is a special plan by which we think my substitute can be provided without calling anyone away from her work in the mission, and without paying traveling expenses from America. Miss Cole knows a Miss Edith V.

Currier, who is in city missionary work in Newark, N. Jersey, 37 Pacific St., — a classmate of Miss Pavlova in the N.Y. Training School for Christian Workers. Although refused appointment by our Board, two years ago, she has been anxious to come here to visit, and has put by a sum of money for her expenses. She is in need of a change, next year, and if we can offer her a salary to cover living expenses here, she may be glad to remain and do what she can while I am away. Even without Bulgarian, she can assist in very many ways. While she is not a college graduate, (and neither are we, for that matter,) she is a consecrated Christian worker, and her influence will be helpful, I am sure, in the school, and her presence will be refreshing to the teachers who have been shut in here for the last two years. It seems to me the only practicable way to get a furlough. Miss Pavlova is much worn, but says she will not take her next year of rest until I have had mine.

Will you please present the matter to the P.C.? (If our request is granted, may I ask you

to communicate with Miss Currier, to whom Miss Coleman will write, now, of our desire, and find out her decision, and then cable me the result? If the whole plan is approved, and she consents, you may cable the word "Come". If not, the word "wait" will be sufficient, or "stay", and I shall wait for letters before making further arrangements. It would not be wise, in these times, for the school to be left with only one American teacher. I should not wish to have that responsibility myself, for next year. Even for annual meeting, neither of us would leave the other alone in the station for two weeks, though as yet no danger is apparent.

We have twenty eight boarders. Two others were here but went to live with friends in the city, for good reasons, and come as day-pupils. Some of the girls are from nine and a half to eleven years of age, and require more care than the older girls. Most of them are obedient, but two fail very often! They have much to learn.

We must have an orphanage in the city for small boys and girls who have lost both parents. The mission approved this, by circular vote, a few weeks ago, but we cannot have the use of any suitable house, until May. Special

funds are in hand to begin the work, and English relief-agents are much interested in the project, so we hope for more English funds.

A week ago today, in the half hour before noon, we felt two earthquake shocks, the second being quite severe but doing no damage in this city, so far as we know. In Salonica, we hear, a Servian boy was killed by a falling cornice. The shocks were felt in Strumnitza, Perlepe (Prelep) and as far as Philippopolis. In the plain near Doiran, (East of Salonica.) it is said that that there were about fifteen cracks in the earth, and that hot water came out of some of them. I do not know certainly that this is true, but it is not improbable.

The second shock rocked our large, strongly-built house like a tree in the wind. It lasted about half a minute. I stood in my room and watched and felt the swaying motion, wondering if the house would fall. As the sick girl was in the next room, I couldn't run and leave her. The door of my room was thrown open and bookcase doors

rattled.

No one appears hopeful about the future of this country, unless a Christian governor should be appointed. Within a few weeks, if England does nothing, we are likely to have disturbances again, though probably they will be worse in the other vilayets, next time. We fear for the Strumnitza region, from which a good many of our boarders have come. I have never known a year when it was so hard to decide what to expect.

This is Easter Monday here, and the other teachers are out making calls. It is a perfect day, warm and bright. The petals of plum blossoms are falling, and the scent of violets and hyacinths is in the air. The grass is beautifully green, and is full of daisies. It must be cut soon, it is so high. Never before have I seen pansies, carnations, verbenas and monthly roses keep green all winter in the ground. We had enough blue violets in the middle of March to make a small fortune in Boston or New York. The poor people call it a special providence for them, that it has not been so cold as last year. Still,

they have suffered enough from chilly rains, many of the villagers having no houses, or very poor ones.

Dear Lady Thomson won us all by her sweet, unassuming manner. She has done much for the suffering in the Castoria region, and says that if there should be further trouble, she wants to come back and help the poor people again. She said it was not strange to her that some should try, by lying and deceit, to get more than their share of the relief provisions. What can we, who have staid quietly here in Monastir, know of the suffering in the villages? Only what we can imagine from the reports of those who have visited the devastated places. It requires a high standard of honor to tell the truth, when, by deceiving, one's family may have more of the bare necessaries of life.

Please give my love to Mrs. Barton. Miss Cole would send her kindest regards, if she were here. We thank you all for your interest and prayers in behalf of the work and workers here. We need this help continually.

Yours most sincerely. Mary L. Matthews.

Rec'd MAY 21 1904 11

Monastir, European Turkey.
May 7- 1904.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D.
Boston, Mass-

Dear Dr. Barton;-

On last Thursday, May 5, at ten o'clock in the morning, I received your cable message "come" - When I went back to my Geometry class, I do not know what the girls thought had happened, for I must have looked happy! Certainly, I felt happy. I want to thank you for your promptness in the matter.

We are glad to anticipate Miss Currier's coming, and I can feel quite easy about leaving my work for a time.

Now I can arrange for the journey. I hope to reach New York about the first of August if not the last of July. Our school closes on June 21, this year.

All seems quiet here, although some felt

that disturbances might occur, yesterday — St. George's day, — as a year ago.

All the girls are well, at present, and we are thankful.

We are preparing to open the orphanage soon, in the adjoining yard - Some preliminary repairs are being made.

Mr. and Mrs. Bond are very busy, selling their furniture and goods, in the expectation of starting for the United States in about a week - We think the Holways will be able to come here, but probably not until July first. Before that, if necessary, we shall have to ask Dr. and Mrs. Haskell to come, which they would do. I do not quite see how we teachers can attend to all station matters, until July - but Mrs. Bond has good reasons for feeling that she must not wait until summer.

Please accept my thanks to the Board, for my leave of absence - and to yourself personally for your kindness in the matter -

With love to Mrs. Barton, Yours sincerely,

Mary L. Matthews.

Monday, May 7, 1904

Rec'd JUN 27 1904

12

Monastir, June 14. 1904.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D. D.
Boston, Mass -

Dear Dr. Barton;-

On May fifth I received the cable message, and wrote you a letter on the seventh. Later, your letter came. I want to thank you again for your prompt kindness in the matter.

Since the Bonds left, we have had extra cares and have been obliged to ask Dr. and Mrs. Haskell to come up here. Dr. Haskell made up our semi-annual accounts, and has gone back to Salonica to do the same for that Station. Mrs. Haskell remains here. Mr. and Mrs. Bond had left their servant-girl and their karass at the house, to await the coming of the Holways in the summer, and soon we found that the girl wanted to marry

one of the gabties at their gate! The kavass had assisted in the plan. He, the gabtie, is a Christian Albanian, but not a Protestant, though he says he is ready to become one. This case has taken much time, but as nothing was found against his character, the best thing to do under the circumstances seemed to be, to have a formal engagement. This took place last Wednesday - but as the case is not over until they are safely married, which they hope to be, soon.

School closes on Tuesday, a week from today. I expect to leave on July 2. As yet I have no company, but cannot wait for that, when it is time to start, though it is not so pleasant to go alone. I am not afraid.

Probably I shall reach New York the last week in July - but I do not know yet by what ship -

With kindest regards to yourself and Mrs. Barton, Yours sincerely,

Mary L. Matthews.

Monastir,

June 14-1904

13

Rec'd JAN 25 1905

Ans'd FEB 3 1905

409 Portage Ave.
Three Rivers, Mich.
Jan. 21. 1905.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D.
Boston, Mass.

My dear Dr. Barton:-

I have no mission paper, and I do not know that I have anything that needs to be said in an official letter, so I will write as a private individual, this time.

Since the meetings at Grinnell and Des Moines, I have visited a good many places - made a "tour" in Eastern New York, in December, with Miss Kyle, and have had several weeks of real rest here, in my brother's home. That tour was one of the most delightful experiences of this year, although I did not find it easy to sleep after evening meetings. I shall never forget those two weeks with Miss Kyle. One night the clouds broke away, and there came to me the consciousness of Christ's love and presence that I had longed for - not overflowing joy, but a sweet restful assurance. I want to tell you this, because of our talk at Des Moines.

God is giving me a great deal to enjoy in my friends, this year - and I want to gain all I can that will help towards better work in Monastir in the future.

Miss Cole is more than busy, but seems happy in her work. She writes of the possibility that you may attend the next meeting of our Union - For years, it has seemed desirable that you should visit all our stations, and see for yourself what is being done - Miss Cole and I have spoken, often, of the pleasure it would give us, to welcome you to Monastir. If you go this year, I shall be very sorry to miss your visit, but others will be helped and blessed by your presence. Perhaps I can go to Boston by the middle of March - but I do not know when you would start, if you go.

There is little in our papers about conditions in European Turkey, but letters hint of possible trouble ahead. God must have some plan to work out, through all this political disturbance, which we cannot understand, yet. It would not be strange if darker days should come, than any in the past two years. It has been such a comfort, to be <u>sure</u> that whatever

He permitted, must be part of His plan, and He could bring good out of it, somehow. It was this confidence that was our strength in these last years.

There are thirty six children in the Monastir Orphanage; and there is a call from the station for Miss Harriet Jenney to go there for three or more years. I have written her about it, but have no reply yet.

Probably I shall have to sail soon after the middle of August, to be there when school opens, the second week in September. You may like to know that I had a medical examination at Clifton Springs, just after our tour in December, and Dr. Thayer said I was in good condition — that I did not show signs of being worn out. He did not say I ought to stop and rest — but only, "Take it easy. Don't work too hard." Really, Dr. Barton, I am better than when you saw me, and I am keeping my promise to rest all I can.

My address will be,

Feb. 1-14, 171 W. Lorain St. Oberlin, Ohio.

Feb. 15 - Mar. 6. Care of Miss Anna T. Ballantine,
Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn.

I hope Mrs. Barton is well. Please give her my love.

Yours most sincerely,

Mary L. Matthews.

Mary L. Matthews.

Three Rivers, Mich. Jan. 21. 1905.

Rec'd JUN 26 1905

Ans'd JUN 27 1905

R.F.D. No. 1. Albion, N.Y.
June 23. 1905.

Rev. A. L. Barton, D.D.
Boston, Mass.

My dear Dr. Barton:-

Your letter of the 20th inst. came to me this morning. I arrived here at my brother's, from Clifton Springs, last evening. I have my testimonial from Dr. Thayer to send to you, and I hope the Prudential Committee will approve of my plan to return to Monastir in August. I am very well - and sleep beautifully, and my visits have been delightful.

I plan to sail from Boston, Aug. 5, on the "Canopic" of the White Star Line, for Naples, and changing there to a steamer for Salonica, or some other port on the way. I shall be glad of company. Where is Mrs. Clark going?

Miss Jenney, whom I had hoped would go with me, is not well, and has had to withdraw her consent. The funds have been

Mary E. Patterson.

promised, chiefly in England, and we need someone, very much. Another young lady who seems well fitted for the Orphanage and evangelistic work, would be very glad to go, if she could give up her work as stenographer, but all her employer's affairs are in her hands, and he goes away soon, to be gone until Jan. If no one can be found, we may be able to get her time, but it would be so pleasant to take her with me.

I expect to be here until the middle of July. Then I must start for the east.

Dr. Thayer told me, several times, that he thought I was in "good condition" - and certainly I have not a pain nor an ache, anywhere. I cannot remember when I have had a headache; it is a very rare event. I have tried to do what I could for missions, wherever I have been, and have "spoken" more than fifty times since the first of August.

Please give my love to Mrs. Barton.

Yours most sincerely, Mary L. Matthews.

Rec'd JUL 18 1905

P.S. It occurs to me that the lady you mentioned may be the daughter-in-law of Dr. J. F. Clarke of our mission. If so, and she wishes to visit the relatives in Monastir, it would be well for her to go with me, but if she goes to Bulgaria first it would be better for her to travel with Miss Mallett. She might not want to go with me if she knew how sick I am, all the way. I can do nothing for others and very little for myself on the water. On my return journeys, Mr. Peet has taken special pains to secure good staterooms for me, near the middle of the ship, where I could have good air, too, as well as a minimum of motion, and I suffered much less than in the outward voyages, and could get on deck nearly every day. I do not want to cost the Board too much; but a good stateroom makes a great difference. I should go by rail across Europe, but that is a hard journey, too, and baggage can be carried more easily, via the Mediterranean. I talked

with Mr. Wiggin about routes, when I was in Boston, and he thought this route and date would be good.

I thank you for reminding me — I had quite forgotten — that my return should be authorized by special action of the Prudential Committee, after a furlough of only one year. The other time, I remained at home three years — so circumstances were different. Please present my case as soon as convenient —

M. L. M.

Albion — T. F.

June 23 — 1905.

M. L. Matthews -

Rec'd JUL 18 1905

15

Catskill Sta., Columbia Co., N.Y.
July 17. 1905.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D.
Congl House, Boston, Mass.

My dear Dr. Barton:-

Your letters of June 26 and July 11, were received in due time. I thank you for the circulars of the Seaside Rest in Maine. If you could see where I am, now, you would think this an ideal place to rest, and I am resting and enjoying it. My uncle lives on the East bank of the Hudson R. just opposite Catskill; and, as we sit on the veranda, we see the river, the town, and the mountains beyond. There are no near neighbors, and we all do just as we like. I sleep just as long as I wish to, every morning.

The cable despatch from Monastir is quite clear. A helper is needed to do extra work in the line of orphanage etc - but I have not succeeded in getting the person, after all. Two have failed, for good reasons. The money has

been provided, chiefly from England. If we do not have help, some or all of us are likely to break down, next year. But we must go on as best we can. We cannot turn aside from the work that has been put into our hands in such a special way - and the regular work must not suffer because of it.

I am glad the Prudential Committee has voted my return. Forgetting that such action would be necessary, I have gone on and made all my arrangements, sent on my papers to Mr. Roemer, and expect to be ready to sail by Aug. 5 - unless it should seem wiser to wait to look for a lady for the orphanage work - and work among the women.

I wondered if Mrs. Clarke would wish to go as early as Aug. 5 - and I am sure she can find pleasanter company later than I could be, with my seasickness, but I was glad to think she might go at the same time.

Send blanks C. M. C. Will you please have blanks for passport sent to me? I will enclose my itinerary.

Were it not that there would be too many friends to visit, around New York, I should try to go and see Mr. and Mrs. Bond - but I do not feel that I can take a week for that vicinity.

SEP 16 1903

I am cutting off all the visits I can, as the time grows shorter.

A letter from Monastir, this morning, says that Mrs. E. B. Haskell is seriously ill, (with typhoid, it is thought.) I am very sorry. Mrs. Dr. Haskell is with them.

Mrs. Howe and Gladys are with Miss Cole, for the vacation — a pleasant arrangement — at the Monastir school.

Mrs. Wm Clarke is not very well, but I do not understand that it is serious.

Miss Cole is tired, after the school year — but the graduation exercises passed off well, and now she will rest. I suppose Miss Currier has started for America, and Miss Pavlova, also. I ought to be there in time to help open school, and I think the 5th of Aug. is the best date to sail, and the "Canopic" is a steady ship — If you approve, will you please ask Mr. Wiggin to secure passage for me? I shall appreciate it, if I can have an "outside" cabin, near the middle of the ship — it would make the journey less hard. I do not suppose I can have company, tho' it would be pleasant.

With love to Mrs. Barton,

Yours most sincerely. Mary L. Matthews.

Mary E. Matthews

Catskill, Sta. N. Y. July 17-05.

16

Rec'd SEP 16 1905

Ans'd OCT 31 1905

Monastir, Eur. Turkey.
Sept. 2. 1905.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D.
14 Beacon St., Boston, Mass.

My dear Dr. Barton:-

This is to inform you that I have arrived at the end of my journey, in very good condition. I reached Monastir on Tuesday, August 29, at 5.45 P.M. and found a good many friends at the station to meet me. It is good to get home, again, and to begin my work - after the very delightful year in the U.S.

Your going to the steamer, when I sailed, was worth a great deal. I am quite sure I could not have had a cabin to myself, had you not spoken about it. As it was, I was very well provided for. The first afternoon was easy and pleasant, but Sunday was stormy; and, even on deck, I was too sick to read any of the fiftyone letters my

friends had provided, to be opened on the steamer. That day was very hard, but when the time came to retire, the stewardess gave me the white of an egg, thoroughly beaten, with a little sugar, lemon-juice (a very little,) and bits of ice. She advised me to stay in bed on Monday, and gave me this preparation three times. On Tuesday, I dressed myself and went on deck. and did so every day after that, and not a sick hour did I have, all the way to Naples. after taking the egg the first time. It was given to me every night, at bed time. but it may not have been necessary to continue it so long. I let the stewardess do all she could for me, and the deck steward brought my meals to me on deck. and it was the most comfortable voyage I ever had. It was smooth, after the first Sunday, and there was not much motion of the ship. The "Canopic" is worth recommending to people who suffer from seasickness. The "Cretic" is said to be just as steady.

The steamers from Naples to Athens, and

from Athens to Salonica were not as good, but those were trips of two days each - and the seasickness did not last long.

Dr. House met me at Salonica, and we had little trouble at the custom house — less, probably, than if I had come over-land, from the northwest -

It does seem that the prayers of friends were answered, in a very special manner, from the beginning of the journey to the end - and their loving thoughtfulness in providing letters and gifts for the way, helped much to make the days pass happily.

Miss Cole is much better than I had expected to find her, and has nearly finished the yearly cleaning of the buildings. The great question before us is, how to secure a reliable first assistant teacher - Miss Pavleva has gone to America with Miss Currier, and she needed a rest, anyway - but our next teacher who promised to return, has written that she cannot come - Only ten days before school opens, but we hope our needs will be supplied in some way -

It is good to feel so well and to be ready for

work- and to slip into my own little corner, again.

We want to have the Mission meeting, in the spring, and it would be delightful to have you visit us then- We want you to see our scholars, and they go to their homes in the summer-

Property has been bought for the orphanage- not far away, but not that which adjoins the school premises and is rented for the purpose now. I do not think the station favors the young lady of whom we talked, — whose papers you showed me, — but we may think best to try to get Anna Marsh- She may not want to come, but there are some reasons, in her favor, for this work-

You will go to the Board meeting, soon. I hope it may be a very good meeting, with no Rockefeller dissensions - and that the debt will disappear before the meeting.

With kind regards to Dr. Strong and love to Mrs. Barton -

Yours most sincerely,

Mary L. Matthews.

Tuscaloosa, Ala. Sept. 2 - 1905.

Rec'd AUG 25 1906 17
Ans'd SEP 1 1906

Lucerne, Switzerland,
August 17. 1906.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D.
14 Beacon St., Boston, Mass.

My dear Dr. Barton:-

It is a long time since I wrote to you, and I am very sorry. It has been a very busy year, and we have not had as good and experienced helpers in the school, as usual. Miss Cole has not been very well, and this summer we have come to this beautiful country to see if she can get over her nervousness, and gain new strength for the future. She could not come alone, so I consented to accompany her, though I did not need it so soon after my furlough. She is not as well, yet, as I should like to see her, and I have urged her to remain a month or two longer, while I go back to open school, but she is not willing to do so. When we are at work again, I hope the benefits of the summer to her will be

more apparent. I hardly know what to say about her condition, but Mr. and Mrs. James Clarke are with us, here, and are going to Boston soon. They can tell you more than I can write.

We expect Miss Pavleva to be with us again, next year, as our first assistant; and the girl who was suspended last December, has learned her lesson, and has sought pardon and a new opportunity, which have been granted, and we are glad.

We return next week, to prepare for the opening of school.

The convention at Geneva was a rich treat to us, especially as we had the great joy of being entertained at the same delightful American home where Dr. F.E. Clark was a guest. It was so good to see him again. Our friends there said that "It is a benediction to have him as a guest in any home" — just what we said in Monastir after his visit there with Mrs. Clark in 1902.

It is with deep sorrow that we learn of the heavy losses sustained by the W.B.M. and the A.B.C.F.M. in the "passing over" of Mrs. Judson Smith, and of Dr. Smith. Your burdens must be greatly increased, for the present, of course, but I hope not sufficiently to break down your health. I hope you will not have to lay down your work, permanently, for many years. Though you may not hear from my pen very often, it is a constant source of strength to remember you, and your helpful words, and your readiness to do all in your power to aid us.

It is disappointing that the requests of the mission could not be granted, for funds for several purposes. Especially do we of Monastir station sympathize with Salonica station in the thought of losing Mr. Frölich. He is a rare young man. just the one for the work he is doing - and it is not work that "a native can do just as well", as some of the mission think. I do not suppose one who has not been in Salonica a good deal, can imagine how much Mr.

Frölich is doing, that would have to be done by the missionaries themselves - not by a native, and the evangelistic work is kept up better by them because they can drop so much of the work of the treasurer and the colportage - i.e - the filling of orders for books - also the custom house business for both our stations, meeting people at train or steamer. (tho' this might sometimes be done by natives, if suitable ones were available -) and the work with the government which is so difficult that no native would be able to do it, and that consumes hours and days - A similar assistant to Samokov station would save money, and prolong the lives of the missionaries, and increase their usefulness, no doubt - The duties of the treasurer are greatly increased by the two schools there, and accounts cannot be put into native hands. Monastir station, as well as Salonica, would rejoice if the request for Mr. Frölich could be reconsidered -

Miss Cole has written to the W.B.M. to express

her thanks for the grant for her travel-ing expenses, this summer. She needed to have a complete change, after the experiences of the last three or four years.

I hope Mrs. Barton is gaining health, each year. Please give her my love.

You will be busy, very soon, in prepa-rations for the Annual Meeting of the Board. May it be the best ever held, and all that is hoped for it.

Yours most sincerely.

Mary L. Matthews.

P.S. Please do not refer to the Geneva convention in letters to Monastir, as our mail is examined, nearly always, even by Austrian post - Letters often show that they have been steamed open and re-sealed. The "authorities" do not like Christian Endeavor!

M. L. M.

Lucerne, Switz. Aug. 17, 1906

JAN 4 1908

16

18

Monastir, Turkey in Europe.
Dec. 15, 1907.

My dear Dr. Barton:-

Although I have not written you since your return from China, I am very glad you are at home again. It has been an extremely busy year for me, and I could not write all the letters I wanted to send. How I wish it had been possible for you to visit our mission! I know it was not, but it would have done us good. The visit of Rev. I. W. Metcalf and family, at the time of the mission meeting, was a great treat to us. They could tell you many things about the work, if you should ask them.

Your letter to Mr. Clarke about the treatment our post receives here, came this morning, and in Mr. Clarke's absence at Kortcha, I read it. It can wait for a reply until his return, but it stirred up hopes of something better than we have now, in my heart, that I trust will not be disappointed! With your letter came a letter for Mr. Clarke from Mrs. Marsh, Philippolis, Bulgaria, that is an illustration of the point in question. I enclose the envelope, which shows that it had been opened, and re-sealed. It is not often that we get letters that we are sure have not been opened! We are quite used to this annoyance, and did not suppose anything could be done about it. At our office we are told that the trouble is at Salonica, and there it is said that the letters come here without examination there! You have lived in Turkey. I am writing now because a merchant we know is going to Salonica tomorrow, and can carry letters to the Austrian office there. All letters between Turkey and Bulgaria are opened as a matter of course, and not only ours. We may send or receive mail through the Austrian consulate, but even then we are not sure of its safety, and we simply have to be careful to write what will not get us into trouble. As for the post to Kortcha, I am thinking it will be one of the hardest trials of the new missionaries that letters are not sure to reach them in that way. If they get there at all, they are likely to be late, and to show that they have been opened. I sent an important letter to Mr. Clarke last week Thursday, and registered it, return receipt, but I fear it looked too valuable to be passed on to him, and when he wrote on Tuesday last, he made no mention of this letter from his wife and me. Packages of books from America usually come with Turkish receipts for me to sign, or with none at all. If Mr. Hosmer has time to follow up the matter of the receipts that should be sent back to him,

it might lead to more care about our registered post. I wonder if the return receipts are not signed sometimes,and the packages given or with-held,at the discretion of the censor.for it is usually a receipt in Turkish that I am asked to sign,or to which our kavass sets his seal(a signet ring,). I have complained at the post-office, but it does little good. In September,1906,I knew of three letters that never reached me. One from Miss Kyle,Boston;one from a friend at Innsbruck,and another from the same friend at Dresden a few days later. At Salonica there are foreign offices,French,Austrian,and British. We have no sure mail service,and Kortcha is so much worse, that if anything could be done about it,we should be very,very glad. Mrs.Clarke says her husband used to save the envelopes that had been opened,but now she thinks he has given it up. It has become too common an experience. One letter that Mr.Haskell thought had been with-held from us,from the mission secretary,came later,in a very round-about way,but it came. We have a kind of a scheme prepared by Mr.Peet,in 1905,by which we could convey messages which would be unintelligible to others,but it is a little complicated and has not been used yet. We shall have that between here and Kortcha,if worst comes to worst,but probably such messages would be suppressed!

But I must not get too excited over this,for I must go to the C.E. meeting very soon. I am sending a letter to Miss Stone with this, to Salonica Austrian office,as a letter put into the Turkish post would be quite sure not to reach her.

I have sent cards to you and Mrs.Barton,recently,and I hope to write more about our work,soon.

Word from Salonica encourages us to think we may expect the Kennedy's next week,and then Mr.Clarke can come home and do his annual accounts. In his absence,I have to do what I can to keep up the station correspondence and accounts,but it takes hours of time,and we all shall be glad when he can come home. The goods of the new missionaries have been sent on to K.,but without their names. The expense from here was heavy,twenty liras for nineteen boxes, some of which were large. Five days by ox-carts.

There is not time for more,now. I hope this will reach you safely. Do not think,please,that I am always complaining;some things in life are bright,and my friendship calendar has been a real blessing all the the year. Thank you so much for your page. I saw it when the calendar came,and looked forward to it for months.

With most cordial regards to you and Mrs.Barton, and to the friends in the Board rooms,

Mary L. Matthews.

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With most cordial regards to you and Mrs.Barton, and to the friends in the Board rooms,

Mary E. Matteson.

Marash Turkey Asia 13-1904

NOV 11 1908

Samokov, Bulgaria.
August 31, 1908.

Rev. J. L. Barton, DD.,
14 Beacon St., Boston, Mass., U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

I have intended to write to you ever since the great event of July 23rd at Monastir. Soon after that, however, I went to Salonica, and then to Sofia for the Jubilee, and now it is nearly two weeks since I came here for a rest. Miss Pavleva is with me, and we expected to go to Sofia today, on our way home, but could get no carriage at a reasonable charge. We expect to leave tomorrow. Miss Cole is now in Monastir. School is to be opened on Sept. 10.

I succeeded in securing for you one of the original documents circulated by the New Turkey Party, on the morning of July 23rd. This is in Bulgarian. Mr. Holway has kindly prepared a translation. The same was sent out in Greek, and, I think, in Roumanian and Servian, but of that I am not sure. I was glad to be in Monastir at the time, and to be present at the proclamation of the constitution, about noon that day. The little "snaps" I took may be good. I have not materials here to print them, but you shall have some prints, if they are worth sending, later. It was a wonderful change that took place in a few hours. One who was not there can hardly imagine it. Turkey suddenly became a free country, and the rejoicing has been great. We had prayed that God would bring order and justice out of confusion and oppression, but we never dreamed that this would be His time and way. Many difficulties have been removed, already, and the changes still go on. "Liberty", and "Brotherhood", and "Equality" are words most often heard.

(You will like to know that our mail has not been inspected by the censor, since the great day. No letters have been opened, so far as I know.)

Monastir, Oct. 24, 1908.

I have copied the above, to prove that I began to write to you some weeks ago. I am very sorry that this letter has had to wait so long, unfinished. Just now, we have no sick girls, and I want to do some writing, before there are other cases to take my time. School has opened well, but we have had the usual epidemic of sore throats, for several weeks. Two weeks ago, we had a scarlet fever scare. But when the doctor came, he said it was another kind of rash. We were extremely thankful, for scarlet fever would mean a long quarantine of Miss Pavleva with the sick girl, and the school cannot spare her from her teaching. Besides, we should not be very likely to escape with only one case, and the disease has been so fatal in the city, that one doctor estimates six hundred deaths in a year or two. It has prevailed continuously since last October, being worst about Christmas time. We could not keep up the services

in Yeni Mahala, as that has been one of the worst parts of the city. In some houses, there, five or six have died. In the summer there seemed to be so much less of the fever that we were told, at the drug-store, that there was very little in the city. The doctor says he had forty-five cases in July alone, and that there were as many as five-hundred cases in the city in the summer! It is wonderful that it did not get into our school or orphanage in spite of our care. Two weeks ago, there were said to be sixty cases in the city. The rains are washing away the microbes, somewhat. Many clothes used by the sick, have been thrown into the street, to be carried off by the garbage-carts, and the disease has spread in this way, as well as by visiting, and public funerals, and open caskets. We have not dared to take the little ones who might have formed such a dear little kindergarten class, and we have very few day-pupils in school. We did not think best to receive all the boarders who applied, as several were quite small and more likely to take contagious diseases. We did not refuse them, but charged a sum which would probably be more than the parents would be willing to give; and yet, if they were ready to pay, we would take the girls. It resulted in a smaller school than last year, but it is a great risk to bring girls here, under existing conditions. We hope and pray that we may be kept from scarlet fever this year, as we were so mercifully spared last year.

Just now, we have another question before us, and we are at a disadvantage, because we are in the care of the Austrian consulate. Two years ago, after we started for Switzerland, the Greeks put up a building for a girls's boarding school, next to our property, on the north. We did not know that we might have protested, but were told so, later. Now the Roumanians have rented a house next to our gate, and have opened a day-school in it. The Bulgarians have bought a large property south of us, and want to put up a building for a boys' dormitory, using a large house that is further from our line, for a recitation hall. We are assured by the lawyer who drew up the contract for the Bulgarians, that they cannot build this year, but they did not ask us if we objected to a school so near us. The law is set forth in a letter Dr. Dwight wrote, in 1908, when the same question troubled us. The Bulgarians were talking of buying the same property then, for the same purpose. Our consul is away, and the vice-consul does not want to press the matter, though he said he had sent our protest, prepared by a lawyer, to the Vali. He has had no reply. There is no hope that he could help us now, even if he wished, for the relations are so strained between this country and Austria. We have referred the case to Mr. Peet and the Legation, hoping that we may be freed from the annoyance of schools so near. I should have stated that our protest was against the Roumanian school, not the Bulgarian, because of the assurances of the lawyer that the Bulgarians wish to be on good terms with us, and would not do what would trouble us. However, if, at Constantinople, it is thought best to express our objection to the Bulgarians having a school building on the lot adjoining ours, that may be done without waiting until they are ready to do it. If the residence which is next to us now, is occupied in future as a residence, we shall not be so much disturbed by the school.

Since writing the fore-going, I have seen your letters to the missionary at Kortcha. You seem to understand the situation better than I had thought you could. It has seemed to some of us unfortunate, if that is the right word, that no experienced missionary could go with Mr. Kennedy at the beginning. He and his wife cannot help seeing things in about the light in which the native workers see them, especially as Mrs. Kennedy and Miss Kyrias were schoolmates and close friends, at the Constantinople Home, years ago. It has appeared, in the past, that the workers there desired all the money which could be secured from the Board, but wished to carry out their own plans, without missionary interference. To me, the most discouraging aspect, at present, is their haste to open institutions with American money, when they have not the workers to man them who are even church-members, to say nothing of their being earnest, consecrated persons whose lives will be a power for Christ. I fear the attitude towards religion is something like that at the American College at Scutari, but I do not want to misjudge the workers. There were some reasons why the Ericksons should stay in Kortcha, and yet the letter from that station was so strongly in favor of their going to Tirana, and they were ready to start the same week that the vote reached us, that we signed it. However, it was not carried, as your letter came in time to turn the votes in Bulgaria the other way. Some of us changed our votes after seeing your letters. We said, before they started, that a two-thirds vote of the mission would be needed, as well as approval at the Rooms, but they were very sure they were doing right to go. The Vali here has been asking our vice-consul (Austrian) why the Americans have gone to Tirana, and it is hard to convince him that the work at Kortcha is not of a political nature. That is not strange, considering how Mr. Kennedy has entered into the new movement, as his own letters show. There is color enough to justify the opinion of the Vali, though that is not Mr. Kennedy's first aim, of course. However, it is not helping us any, that suspicion should rest upon all the Americans in this region, on account of what he is doing. No doubt it is "almost impossible for him to keep out of it", as has been said by one who has been there. It will not help us in our relations with the government, if this continues. We have the same Vali as before the "Constitution", and he sees the activity of Mr. Tsilka, who came here and made a number of political speeches, after the proclamation. He came with the new party from Albania. And this, immediately after such strenuous efforts to have him released from prison on the claim that he was innocent of connection with the revolutionary movement.

We are meeting considerable opposition on the part of the protestants to paying tuition in our school. One of the men who has been in the Samokov school and should know better, said, many years ago, that it was not the intention of our Board to have tuition charged. When Mr. Tsilka came from America, the first time, he said that if the parents would not pay, the children should be received just the same, as it was not their fault. I do not know what he

says about it now, but I hope the Albanians will be willing to pay for the privileges of the new institutions, when they are opened. The fact that no tuition is charged at Kortcha G.B.S. is given as a reason why our school should be free. Of course we make reductions, in needy cases, but we do not want to give up the principle that a part of the cost, though it must be a small part, should be met by the people.

Our boarders are our hope and joy. I wish you could know them. I hope the time will soon come when we can have more of them. This is a peculiar year, in several ways. Two who were here last year could not return, on account of sickness. One who was to come for the first time, died in the summer. One of our orphan boarders had a good home offered to her, and has gone to Salonica. Others were so young we did not think it wise to urge their coming, under the circumstances, so we have only twenty-four, at present. Sometimes others come in, even later than October. Ten of the twenty-four, including all the older ones, are members of the church, and active Endeavorers. Also, we believe a good many of our younger ones are really trying to please Christ. It always makes us glad when we know that friends are praying for the work here, for so much wisdom and patience are needed, to meet the daily demands.

We have heard nothing, as yet, about the Board meeting. And very soon the W.B.M. meeting will be held. We shall be glad to get reports of these gatherings. May great blessings follow them.

Of the great events in the summer, I wrote somewhat at length to Mrs. Strong, recently, and there is not time, now, to repeat. This letter must be on its way, without further delay. Please pardon my long silence. I hope to do better in future, as my machine can write faster than my pen.

you do not know how often the thought of you brings strength, dear Dr. Barton. May you be spared many years, to the work and to the workers. And may you come to our mission, someday!
Miss Cole wishes me to send her greetings to you. She is better, in several respects, than she was last year.

Please give my love to Mrs. Barton. I have pleasant memories of our brief acquaintance at Clifton Springs.

Yours most sincerely,

Mary L. Matthews.

Samuelson, Paul.

Aug. 31-1908.

Rec'd NOV 11 1908

Copy.

Constantinople, Sept. 17, 1898.

Dear Miss Matthews:-

Your note about the rights of your Girls' School is received.

1. As to the establishment of the Boys' School by the side of your premises:

It is a usage, not a regulation, that a school may not be established by the side of an existing school. The usage has all the force of law, however, in case the officials choose. If I were in your place I would have the case presented at once to the Governor-General with a request that the Bulgarians be required to find another site for their boys' school, in view of the fact that your Girls' School is to be seriously injured by the propinquity of the new school. In case the Vali does not act promptly, the Legation had best be appealed to. but I will wait to hear from you again before going to the Legation.

2. * As to the window. If the window over-looking your premises had been in existence 15 lunar years the owner of the house may be able to thwart your attempt to close it, for there is a statute of limitations in the case. But you had best apply to the Municipality (Baladie) to have the window closed. A bakshish judiciously administered will secure attention in all probability. If the Municipality does not attend to the matter, you should bring suit in the civil court (in the name of whoever is legal owner of your premises) and the court will order the window closed.

I shall be glad to help you in any of these matters if they cannot be settled on the ground, but it is far better to exhaust the local possibilities before applying here, because our influence is not very strong. The case is one where the use of bakshish is justifiable and I would use it if I were in your place in order to induce men to do their duty.

Yours truly,

(Signed) H.O.Dwight.

* This particular window was closed at the time.

Miss Matthews

Constantinople Sept. 17 - 1898.

JUN 2 1909

Monastir, Turkey in Europe.
April 27, 1909.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D.,
14 Beacon St., Boston, Mass., U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

Your New Year's letter found me in Salonica, where I had the pleasure of visiting two of our battle-ships, the "Ohio" and the "Missouri". We Americans spent a whole afternoon on these ships, and were invited by Captain Doyle of the "Missouri" to call on him, in his drawing-room. After a pleasant half-hour there, we were served tea, with the officers, in their dining room. It was worth a trip to Salonica to see these ships.

I was called home by a telegram, as Miss Cole was not well. She had been unusually well all the fall, but about Christmas time she felt very tired and nervous, and this increased until it became necessary for her to go to Philippopolis for a complete change. One of our teachers accompanied her, returning in eight days. Miss Cole is much better than when she left here, but it seems best that she have her furlough in the home-land before returning to the school. The trouble is nervous and mental, that is, she has fears of dangers which do not exist, and suffers from them as much as if they were real. It is a sad case, for she has no friends to whom she can go and feel at home and free to stay as long as she likes. The doctor here says if she comes back here, the fears will return, but she does not believe the doctor is sincere, but thinks he has something to do with a plot against her which she fancies is being worked up. I have not written you because I did not wish her to think I had told more than I should, but she has written herself, I understand, and it may be as well for me to tell you a few points which may make the case clearer to you. It is not best that she should know I have told you more than she has. She thinks she will be able to come back after her furlough, and it is not well to talk of any other possibility, at present. But it is not certain that the mission would think it advisable.

In any case, it has become necessary to ask for another American lady to come to this school. Even if Miss Cole returns, I hope the

school will have grown so that there would be enough for us all to do The Mission has voted to ask such a lady for next fall, and it has been in my heart for several years that Miss Harriett A. Jenney, whose father was a missionary here, in the early days of the station, would be a good person to take up work here in the city where she was born. She is a graduate of Oberlin College and has had special study of music. I visited her home, four years ago, and liked her very much. The late Mrs. Hatch, of Talcott Hall, where Miss Jenney boarded, told me that any mission which could secure Miss Jenney would have a treasure. I think Miss Jenney is with her parents, now, at 915 Pine St. Yankton, South Dakota. If she were appointed by the Board, permanently, not just for next year, I think she would come, provided her health is good. I want to give you this information regarding her, that there may be time for action before school opens next fall.

9.30 P.M.

About half past five, this afternoon, we heard the cannon. That is the usual signal in case of fire, so I asked our kavass what it was. He replied that we have a new Sultan! There is general rejoicing all over the city. Even now we can hear guns and revolvers every few minutes. Firing is forbidden on the streets, but many people are improving the occasion to empty their weapons into the air, in their own yards, Tomorrow night there will be an illumination, we are told. No one seems to know what has become of the former Sultan. After a day or two, we shall have more particulars. We understand that the Young Turkey party has taken Constantinople. We have been in no danger here. It has been quiet until the news of a change of rulers came this afternoon. There are few Turks in this part of the country except constitutionalists, so it is not difficult to keep order.

We hear that two American missionaries, Mr. Rogers and Mr. Maurer, have been killed in the disturbances at Adana, but we do not find the name Maurer in the list of our missionaries. The Mr. Rogers may be the one in Hadjin, who may have been at Adana. We shall be very sorry if this report proves true. We hear much, of course, that is not true, and often do not know what to believe, until we can know the facts from some of our missionaries.

Tuesday, May 11.

This has had to wait while I had an attack of my old throat trouble, and while I have given considerable time to the re-building of the wall between our compound and that of the Greek Girls'School, This wall fell on the Tuesday morning of the Messina earthquakes, Dec.30. This part of the wall was very old, and has required to be re-built from the foundation. Meanwhile, our former Sultan has been brought to Salonica, with twelve of his wives, (or about that number: some say eleven, others, thirteen,) and is living in the house of a rich Jew, at the edge of the city. No doubt the Salonica missionaries will tell you more than I can, of his circumstances. We hear, these days, of more fighting in Constantinople, between the different parties of the Turks, but we do not know how much it means. It is quiet here, and no one seems to fear any disturbances, for most of the Turks belong to the Young Turk party. We are sorry that the reports from Adana are so serious, and that Mr. Rogers has been killed. He finished his missionary life very early.

Miss Cole has gone to Sofia, and is waiting for company to the home land. I think she is better, physically, but in other ways I fear she is not as well as we could wish. I have not heard directly from her for some time, but letters may be delayed by the political circumstances.

May 17, Monday.

Miss Cole started last Thursday from Sofia, for America, accompanied by Miss Clarke. She had been getting worse, and this was the only course to be taken. We feel that the sudden start, and the expense of Miss Clarke's journey are fully justified by the condition of Miss Cole. It would have been unwise to attempt to get a physician's certificate as to her health, for she would have thought that he was connected with the plot she fancied was being laid for her arrest or capture. It is a very sad case. We have asked the doctor here, the best in the city, to prepare a certificate in regard to her condition in the winter when he treated her for some time. He says it is what is called "persecuting mania", when one fancies that there are plots to harm ~~the~~ him. This is not all a recent development. She has had more or less of this mania for several years. Before we went to Switzerland, in 1906, she was with me in a drug store, one day, when a carriage stopped at the door, and she insisted that it had been sent to take her. She nearly fainted with fright, and could scarcely walk home. There have been numberless instances of a similar nature, but she would get over the fears for a while and then they would begin again. We did not dare to mention her going to America, as she had said she did not want to go lest she would not be asked to return. The doctor here says she ought not to come back into this country where there is so much intrigue and he believes

that, if she returns, there will be a return of the mania, though she may seem to have recovered in a freer country. The difficulty is that she believes this doctor to be a party to the plot to capture her. Three years ago, a little sister of Enver Bey was in our school, but we did not know then that she was his sister. Miss Cole thought this child of perhaps ten years was here as a spy, and she suffered much from this idea. Two villagers came into the yard, one day, two or thre years ago, and she though they had come to look at her, with reference to kidnapping her when the time should come. It is right that you should know these things, but it would not be well for her to know how much I have told you. This is in the family, and her father and one or two of his sisters were in asylums for a short time at least. To be confined in any place where she cannot get out, would be the very worst thing for her, probably. That is a terror to her. Two years ago, when we were going to Switzerland, via Naples, we stopped a few hours at Catania. We went on shore, and had an opportunity to see the large cathedral, but as soon as we had entered and the door was closed behind us, not locked, she was in such fear that we should not be able to get out, that she refused to go further, but hastened out, nearly fainting, and we had to return to the ship. She never has wanted to be alone anywhere, but she was so much worse before she left here in February, that she could not stay in her room alone while I was in school. I have no hope of a complete recovery which would warrant her return to the mission. It is a very sad case, and I am thankful it is not a common one. Miss Cole was very good in the line of order and cleanliness. Those have always been strong points in our school. She has done much to bring the school to it present efficiency. At Kortcha, when the Mission voted to ask for a lady to come here next year, the reference to Miss Cole was softened so as not to imply directly that we did not expect her to return, as she would be likely to ask to see the minutes, and it would not be desirable for her to think, before going to the United States, that she could not return. She often writes that she will be well enough to work many more years here. I pity her when she finds that she cannot. She was here first, and I would never take any steps to drive her out, but if I should be asked to go through again what I have experienced in the last few years, I think I should be sure I was not called to do it. I wonder if hers is a case for Dr. Worcester!

Thursday, May 20.

This is the way most of my letters have to be written, like patch-work! There are so many interruptions, and I find it is notwise to write late in the evening. I do hope Miss Jenney can come to us for next year. I have good helpers, and they would do anything they could to make my work lighter. I am very grateful for this willingness on their part. They wanted me to go to the Mission Meeting, and took charge here while I was away. But every teacher has been under the care of a doctor for a longer or shorter time. At Easter, one of them was obliged to leave on account of her health. She is a Servian from Prishtina, one of our own graduates, who taught a little protestant school at home for several years. She then went to the College at Scutari, where she was graduated last June. She must have overworked, for soon after coming here last fall, she began to have epileptic fits, (of course, this item should not be printed,) and we tried in every way to help her recover. She seemed much better, but this spring she had attacks which were sufficiently hard to make it imperative that she leave the school. It made it harder for us that she felt we ought to have let her remain. But the teachers who were most with her were becoming so nervous that they avoided her as much as possible, and two of them cannot yet attend morning prayers, because Miss Mladenovitch had the last two fits in the schoolroom, though the last time she was taken out so quickly that no one saw the worst of it. We are longing for the end of June, but there is plenty to be done in preparation for the public graduation exercises. Two girls, both Bulgarians (one is part Gipsy, but would not like the fact mentioned!) are to receive diplomas, if they pass the next examinations. Both are earnest Christians. You will be glad to know that four girls of our boarders were received into the church last Sunday. Two others who were examined were asked to wait longer, but I think they are sincere. You have my report, by this time, no doubt, and I will not repeat what that contains.

If you can share this letter ~~with~~ Mrs. Strong, conveniently, I will not write all these details to her. But please request her not to let Miss Cole know about it. She will understand something of the situation.

Please give my love to Mrs. Barton — and Mrs. Strong.

Most cordially yours,

Mary L. Matthews.

Monastir-Turkey Apr. 27-May 20
1909

Mrs Shirley

Rec'd JUN 2 1909

Monastir, May 20. 1909.

My dear Dr. Barton:-

When I returned from Kortcha, I found the copy of "Daybreak in Turkey," which you so kindly sent me. Please accept my hearty thanks for it. I had intended to order it soon. I have not had time to read very much of it yet, but I know it is worth careful study.

Events are following each other so fast, here in Turkey, that you may have to add an

annual supplement to your book, to keep it up to date!

I wonder if you see the London "Mail" (tri-weekly "Times.") That is our dependence for news, and I am keeping the files as the most reliable history we can get. If clippings from these papers would be of any service to you, I might cut them out, in the summer. I should be glad to do anything I could for you. I am glad you could use the document of the Committee of Union and Progress I sent you last fall. One of our protestant friends wanted to keep it, but let me have it for you. It would be a pleasure to send more articles of interest

if we could obtain them.

May God give you many years of the beautiful service you are doing for missions through our Board.

I hope Mrs. Barton is well. My love to her, please.

Yours most sincerely,

Mary L. Matthews

P.S. Later we heard that ex-Sultan Abdul Hamid has only four wives with him — the other women being servants. We do not know the truth in this matter! Nor in regard to many other reports we hear.

M.L.M.

Mary L. Matthews

Monastir - Turkey - May 20 - 1909.

L. F. Ostrander

23

MAY 21 1901
MAY 21 1901

Lyons, N. Y.,

May 17, 1901.

Rev. C. H. Daniels, D.D.,

Boston, Mass.,

My dear Sir:-

Since receiving your letter some ten days ago I have been very busy with the closing exercises at the Seminary and with my packing and other preparations for departure from Auburn, so have not been able to send you a reply. On my arrival home I found a letter from Dr. Archibald saying that he had consulted with you concerning my making a trip to Boston and Brockton, and suggesting as a desirable time for me to be with the Porter church the week beginning June 2. The financial side of such a trip would be the most difficult part for me to provide for, but since that consideration, as I understand it, is to be met by the Board, I see no reason why I cannot go east at the time suggested, and shall accordingly lay my plans to do so, unless otherwise instructed by you or Dr. Archibald. I am looking forward with pleasure to making the personal acquaintance of those with whom I have carried on correspondence.

I have heard from both Dr. Haskell and Rev. Mr. Clarke; also from my uncle in Bulgaria. Thank you for writing to them.

Would it be asking too much to have you send me from now on copies of the Missionary Herald, beginning with March of this year? Mr. Clarke has sent me a copy of his recently prepared sketch of the mission.

Thank you for your advice on the marriage question. I shall be

very careful about what I do along that line, if I do anything at all.

The arrangements for my ordaination are not yet completed, but it will probably take place during the week beginning June 9th. I appreciate the interest you manifest in it, and wish that some of you might be present on that occasion.

Hoping soon to see you in person, when I shall have several things to consult you about, I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

Leroy F. Ostrander.

Lyons N. Y.

May 17. 1901

Encs. 1

Box 1024

Lyons, N. Y.,

July 3, 1901.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,

Boston, Mass.,

My dear Dr. Smith:-

Your letter of the 27th ult., after having followed me to several addresses during an absence from home, has finally found me. In reply to it would say that Mr. Holway and I have had an exchange of letters, but I have not received an answer to mine which was written over two months ago and contained some suggestions about sailing. After consultation with Dr. Daniels I decided that I would sail about the end of August. I am already in communication with Mr. Wiggin in regard to the matter and have just written asking him to engage me a passage on the "Commonwealth" sailing from Boston August 28th. Through my uncle, Rev. Robert Thomson, I will keep the mission informed of my plans and movements.

I realize the fact that there are great possibilities for work before me, and I trust that I may be able to make the most of them. I also consider myself fortunate in having the interest and support of the people of the Porter church of Brockton

Thanking you for your kind letter, I remain,

Very sincerely yours, Leroy F. Ostrander.

Leroy F. Ostrander

Pr. L. F. Ostrand

Lyons, July 3-1

Recd July 6

MAY 5 1902

Samokov, Bulgaria,
April 20, 1902.

JUN 27 1902

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.,
Boston, Mass:—

My dear Dr. Barton,

Your kind letter, which reached us soon after our arrival here, should, I feel, have had an earlier answer, but I have delayed writing until we should become somewhat settled and familiar with our new life. It is a matter of regret with us, also, that we did not have an opportunity to meet you personally, but we hope that we shall have the chance before very long when you come to visit our mission.

You were informed by my uncle, Rev. Robert Thomson, of our arrival on the 13th of January. Since that time we have been quartered in his house, and have been taken in as members of his family, a very delightful arrangement for many reasons. Our welcome by the station was most cordial, and, as you once wrote me, it is indeed a choice circle to which we have come.

So far as the natural characteristics of the place are concerned, we are delighted with Samokov. It would be hard to find a more beautiful situation of the same kind, and the mountains to the south are a never failing source of interest and inspiration. The walks and the rides that are to be had are most enjoyable. And with its high elevation and abundant supply of clear running water, the town ought to be a very healthful place. In our estimate of it as a town we must, of course, make due allowance for what it has had to contend against in the past and for the present poverty of the people. From all I can learn, there must have been great improvement during the last 25 years, and the desire to improve is still manifest.

We have as yet taken no active part in the work, and sometimes we almost feel that our life is very idle and ineffectual as compared with the other members of the station. But we try to remember the importance of an early and thorough knowledge of the language and that time devoted to its

study is not wasted or meaningless. We have been having three lessons a week from one of the native teachers in the Institute, and by this time Bulgarian has begun to lose some of its strangeness of appearance and sound. We find some difficulty in the lack of accurate and complete grammars and dictionaries for English students but hope to remedy this when we get a little further along by the use of the Bulgarian grammars. The pronunciation is comparatively easy. Mrs. Ostrander the other evening sang at a public entertainment the Bulgarian translation of "Nearer my God to Thee" set to special music, and it was said afterwards that she is going to speak Bulgarian like a Bulgarian. I have yet to make my first public use of the language. Little by little we are becoming familiar with the workings of the schools and of the various activities and shall be glad when we can take our part in carrying them on.

Tomorrow morning we start with Dr. Haskell and Mr. Thomson for the annual meeting at Monastir. It is needless to say that we are looking forward with

Apr 20, 1902

much pleasure to this opportunity for making the acquaintance of the other members of the mission and for getting into closer touch with the work in the several stations. After the meeting Mrs. Ostrander and I expect to make a detour and go to Constantinople for the purpose of making arrangements for housekeeping and of visiting relatives and friends there. It is quite probable that we shall continue to occupy my uncle's house while he and his family are away on furlough, and so we shall be thrown altogether upon our own resources.

We greatly enjoyed Dr. and Mrs. Clark's visit, and feel that it brought us all a rich spiritual blessing. It is a precious experience to see what we have been permitted to see here during the last two weeks.

The report of the "Deputation" has just arrived and we are examining it with much interest.

Thanking you for your kind words of welcome and advice, I remain, Very sincerely yours,
Leroy F. Ostrander.

Apr 20, 1902

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Samokov, Bulgaria, Nov. 18, 1902.

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.,
Boston, Mass.,

My dear Dr. Barton, --At the joint conference of our Bulgarian mission stations recently held in Yambul a paper was presented to the native pastors and the missionaries for signature. This paper made statements concerning the character and actions of a certain Mr. Shoomkoff who is obtaining money from the churches in America under what are considered to be false pretenses. It was intented to send copies to the officials of some of the leading missionary societies and doubtless you have either received one or soon will. Last week there appeared in a Sophia paper (The "New York Journal" of Bulgaria) an article from this same Mr. Shoomkoff. Mr. Baird thought it would be of interest at the Board rooms because of the subject it discusses, and it seemed to me important just at this time because of the indications it gives of the man's ideas and character. I have accordingly translated it and enclose the translation herewith. I have thought that it would be interesting to see how closely the translation of a translation agrees with the original article in the New York Tribune.

Another letter prepared at the Yambul conference was a reply by the native pastors to the letter sent them by our last annual meeting. It was directed to this station though it should have gone to Mr. Bond as Mission Sec. As I am making several copies of it, I shall venture to enclose one to you and shall inform Mr. Bond that I have done so. So far as I am able to judge there is a cordial feeling between the missionaries and the pastors with possibly one or two exceptions on the part of the pastors.

Dr. Clarke and I attended the conference as representatives of this station and church. We stopped over night at Philippopolis and I was entertained by the Haskells in their new home. They are very pleasantly located. The conference passed off nisely. There was a fair attendance of delegates and the meetings open to the public drew good audiences. I trust that the results may be decidedly helpful to Pastor Xristoff in his work in that difficult field. I shall not attempt to report on the work of the conference, as I do not as yet understand the language well enough to be sure of all that is said. I was glad of the opportunity that it gave me to become better acquainted with the workers and the field.

I wish you and Dr. F. E. Clark could have been with us last Sunday. We had the communion service and eight young men from our school were received into church membership. Seven of them were from those who expressed the desire to lead the Christian life after Dr. Clark's visit. There are three others who wish to join but they have been advised to wait a little. The young men received are from the upper classes and their influence for good in the school is being strongly felt. Thus far this year things have gone very satisfactorily in our school. The Girls' School has suffered a great loss in the leaving, because of poor health, of Miss Setchanoba, daughter of Pastor Setchanoff, one of their most valuable teachers. To help them out and to get practice in the use of the language I am going to take two hours a week in beginning algebra. Things on the whole are quiet here, though a few wounded men and some refugees from Macedonia have arrived in town.

With greetings from Mrs. Ostrander and myself, I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

Leroy F. Ostrander.

Samokov, Nov. 18, 1902

HARRY WADE HICKS

Journal Post, Nov 18, 1902

P.S. Nov. 19. There is another thing that I think I ought to mention to you. On the way back from Yambul I had a talk with Mr. Tsanoff, the editor of the "Zornitza". In discussing the situation here I asked him if he had read the article by Mr. Morse in the "Missionary Herald" for Sept. He said he had and that on the whole he liked it very much, but was sorry about one thing, and that is the statement that there were no schools in Bulgaria before the coming of the American missionaries. He says that this is not so, as both he himself and his father before him attended native Bulgarian school before the missionaries came. He says that he is glad this article has not been brought to the attention of some who are opposed to our work as they would be sure to make hostile use of the statement in question. This correction on the part of Mr. Tsanoff, a man who is thoroughly in sympathy with our work and policy, seems to me important, and possibly you can make some use of it so that the mistake may be avoided in the future. I mean to make more enquiries and learn more definitely what was the state of education in this country before we began our work here.

Sincerely yours,

L. F. O.

P.S. Nov. 16. There is another thing that I think I ought to mention to you. On the way back from Yambol I had a talk with Mr. Tsanoff, the editor of the "Zornitza". In discussing the situation here, I asked him if he had read the article by Mr. Morse in the "Missionary Herald" for Sept. He said he had and that on the whole he liked it very much, but was sorry about one thing, and that is the statement that there were no schools in Bulgaria before the coming of the American missionaries. He says that this is not so, as both he himself and his father before him attended native Bulgarian school before the missionaries came. He says that he is glad this article has not been brought to the attention of some who are opposed to our work as they would be sure to make hostile use of the statement in question. This correction on the part of Mr. Tsanoff, a man who is thoroughly in sympathy with our work and policy, and possibly you can make some use of it so that the mistake may be avoided in the future. I mean to make more enquiries and learn more definitely what was the state of education in this country before we began our work here.

Sincerely yours,

Rec'd JUL 23 1903

Samokov, Bulgaria, July 8, 1903.

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.,

Ans'd JUL 27 1903

Boston, Mass.,

My dear Dr. Barton:- Yours of the 12th ult. has been duly received and copies forwarded to the other stations of our mission. I regret that a press of secretary work in connection with the annual reports of the C. & E. I. and the annual meetings of the trustees of the two schools has prevented me from acknowledging your letter before this. I want first of all to thank you for your kind words of greeting to me in my new position. I am sure I shall enjoy the relationship it carries with it, and sincerely hope that I may be able to perform its duties in a way that will be satisfactory to your end of the line as well as to our own. I am very glad, however, that for the present, at least, you will not have to depend on me for news from our field, for there are others who understand the situation so well, and who can and do write so much more intelligently about it than I could. Thus far I come far below your standard for a mission secretary, but perhaps I can grow to it. I will try.

I have nothing of an official character to communicate to you tonight, and not much in regard to the work or the political situation. The Haskells have left Salonica and are at present in Philippopolis. An accident to the oldest boy, in which he hurt his head quite badly, has detained them there, otherwise they would be here in the mountain coolness of our Samokov, where Mrs. Dr. H. and the children expect to spend the summer. Mr. Holway is holding the fort in Salonica with the assistance of one of the native pastors, but it is quite probable that

Rec'd AUG 5 1903

Mr. Baird may go down to reinforce him for a time. I should have added above that Jamie Haskell is now much better and that they expect to come here week after next. Dr. Clarke is at present away on a tour to Ichteman, Sofia and Pirdope. One of our teachers has gone to Dubnitsa to work there during the summer, and another one is now touring in the Philippopolis field. The school year was finished up successfully and the closing exercises passed off on the whole very ~~successfully~~ satisfactorily. I have recently sent programs of them to Mr. Thomson, and I am sure he would be glad to explain and discuss them if you so desire. The political excitement of the last few months could not but have its effect upon the students, and it came out quite plainly in the exercises of the C.& T. I. The situation does not seem to change very much. Talk of war is rife and the reserves stationed here in Samokov are drilling every day. There is very little, however, of open excitement except such as is caused by the soldiers, and I know of no outbreaks of violence and disorder here in Bulgaria. But this political excitement certainly interferes with our work in more ways than one. The attention and, in many cases, the money of the people are given up to the Macedonian movement. In Macedonia itself the work is hampered by the breaking up of congregations and the terror of those that remain, and in some cases by the withdrawal of the pastors. Day before yesterday Pastor Sedloeff, of Mehomia, arrived in Samokov, having been forced to flee secretly because the Turks were after him, this being the only way to escape a term of imprisonment, to say nothing of beatings and torture. He tells of severe torture which was recently inflicted on his brother. In Bulgaria, Kustendil is perhaps most effected. It is very near the border and there is constant excitement there, for it lies on the road that the Turks would probably try to follow if they should advance on Sofia. Pastor Furnajieff is having a rather trying time just now, both on account of this excitement which diverts the minds of the people from any thing of a religious nature, and because of many removals from the community which have taken away most of his best supporters and helpers. But, in God's plan, this may be just the time that shall prepare the hearts of the people for a more sincere and joyous acceptance of the truth as it is in Christ Jesus. Meanwhile we are thankful that we are able to maintain our work in so great a degree of personal safety.

If you have not already done so, I wish that you might thoroughly discuss the condition and needs of the C. & T. I. with Mr. Thomson and Dr. House. It seems to me that our school must be very decidedly improved if it is to continue to do the work that it ought to do and which the country demands of it. I do not know how much importance to attach to this fact, but as far as I have observed, with only a few exceptions, there is not a cordial feeling for the school among the native brethren. It is a difficult question, I know, and I shall want to discuss it more fully with you later on, and in this connection the opinions of the above named gentlemen would be very valuable. All here in Samokov are well,

With best greetings, Sincerely yours, L. F. Ostrander.

Mr. Baird may go down to reinforce him for a time. I should have added above that Jamie Haskell is now much better and that they expect to come here week after next. Dr. Clarke is at present away on a tour to Lohtemam, Sofia and Pirdope. One of our teachers has gone to Dubnitsa to work there during the summer, and another one is now touring in the Philippopolis field. The school year was finished up successfully and the closing exercises passed off on the whole very ~~successfully~~ satisfactorily. I have recently sent programs of them to Mr. Thomson, and I am sure he would be glad to explain and discuss them if you so desire. The political excitement of the last few months could not but have its effect upon the students, and it came out quite plainly in the exercises of the O.S.T.I. The situation does not seem to change very much. Talk of war is rife and the reserves stationed here in Samokov are drilling every day. There is very little, however, of open excitement [illegible] and I know of no outbreaks [illegible] in Bulgaria. But this political excitement [illegible] our work in more ways than one. The attention [illegible], in many cases, the money of the people are given up to [illegible] movement. In Macedonia itself the work is hampered [illegible] the terror of those that remain [illegible] the peasants. [illegible] arrived in Samokov, having [illegible] Turks are after him, [illegible] imprisonment, to say nothing [illegible] were torture which was recent [illegible] in Bulgaria, Kustendil is perhaps most [illegible]. It is very near the border and there is constant excitement [illegible] the Turks would probably try to follow it [illegible] Sofia. Pastor Burmajieff is having [illegible] time just now, both on account of this excitement which diverts the minds of the people from any thing of a religious nature, and because of many removals from the community which have taken away most of his best supporters and helpers. But, in God's plan, this may be just the time that shall prepare the hearts of the people for a more sincere and joyous acceptance of the truth as it is in Christ Jesus. Meanwhile we are thankful that we are able to maintain our work in so great a degree of personal safety.

If you have not already done so, I wish that you might thoroughly discuss the condition and needs of the O. S. T. I. with Mr. Thomson and Dr. House. It seems to me that our school must be very decidedly improved if it is to continue to do the work that it ought to do and which the country demands of it. I do not know how much importance to attach to this fact, but as far as I have observed, with only a few exceptions, there is not a cordial feeling for the school among the native brethren. It is a difficult question, I know, and I shall want to discuss it more fully with you later on, and in this connection the opinions of the above named gentlemen would be very valuable. We here in Samokov are well.

With best greetings, Sincerely yours, L. A. Dorward.

Samokov, July 8, 1903

Rec'd AUG 5 1903

Samokov, July 21, 1903.

Ans'd OCT 1 1903

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.,

Boston, Mass.,

My dear Dr. Barton:- Yours of the 3rd inst. was received yesterday, and its contents have been copied and will be transmitted to the other stations of the mission today. I trust that you will duly receive my communication of a recent date.

The political situation in some respects seems to be improved. Here in Bulgaria the excitement is not so intense as it was a little while ago. The reserves are being dismissed, and the officers who have been drilling those located in Samokov have been heard to say that they shall not reengage their lodgings as they are likely soon to be removed. One of the signs that the war cloud is blowing over is that some of the Bulgarian papers, and especially the "Vetcherna Poshta", seem to be making desperate efforts, by inflammatory articles, to keep the war spirit alive. I cannot say very much about Macedonia, although we are informed that beatings continue to occur in the Raslog. A letter received this morning from Mrs. Holway reports a state of great fear among the followers in Salonica caused by the expectation that in two or three weeks another outbreak will occur much more serious than the first, because this time it will be directed against the Turks. They expect to engage a cavass to guard their persons and their property, because of late the Turks have become rather bold and offensive, and Mrs. H. does not dare to go on the street alone or even in the company of other women. Mr. Baird rather expects to go down there this week to help and to relieve Mr. Holway, as it seems best that Mr. Has-

kell should perhaps remain away longer than till the first of August, as he at first planned. Mr. H. with his three oldest children is now here and is established with Miss Haskell for the summer on the compound in house No. 2. We hope that the rest and the change will do him a great deal of good. He certainly needs them after the very trying experiences he has been through.

Samokov station yesterday passed a vote instructing me to write to you in regard to Mr. Thomson's health. From letters I have received from him and from my mother, his sister, in whose home he recently visited, we fear that it is far from satisfactory. For over a year he has had more or less trouble with his head and recent symptoms would seem to indicate that he might be on the verge of a mental or nervous breakdown. We are anxious about him, and much as he is needed here for the literary and school work, we feel that he ought not to hurry back and be subjected to the strain from which he can hardly escape once he is on the field, if a prolongation of his furlough would give him the rest that he so much needs to recover his physical strength. Of course as you have recently seen him and have had a chance to observe his condition and to learn his own opinions and desires, you will know best what to advise him to do, but we want you to have this expression of our opinion in regard to him.

With best greetings I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

Leroy F. Ostrander.

kell should perhaps remain away longer than till the first of August, as he at first planned. Mr. H. with his three oldest children is now here and is established with Miss Haskell for the summer on the compound in House No. 2. We hope that the rest and the change will do him a great deal of good. He certainly needs them after the very trying experiences he has been through.

Samokov station yesterday passed a vote instructing me to write to you in regard to Mr. Thomson's health. From letters I have recently had from Mr. [illegible] from my colleagues, also, I gather, it was [illegible] he recently visited, we fear that it is far from satisfactory. For over a year he has had there no less [illegible] and [illegible] ago. Some would say to indicate that he [illegible] in the very [illegible] or [illegible] are anxious [illegible] is needed more for the liberty an active, [illegible] right to be hurry back and be subjected to the strain from which he can hardly escape once he is on the field, if a prolongation of his furlough would give him the rest that he so much needs to recover his physical strength. Of course as you have recently seen him and have had a chance to observe his condition and to learn his own opinions and desires, you will know best what to advise him to do, but we want you to have this expression of our opinion in regard to him.

With best greetings I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

Henry T. Dalrymple

Dwight H. Day 211/103

Rec'd AUG 26 1903

Samokov, Bulgaria, Aug. 12, 1903.

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.,

Ans'd OCT 1 1903

Boston, Mass.

My dear Dr. Barton:- I have the pleasure of acknowledging the receipt of your letters of July 15th and 27th. Copies have been forwarded to the other stations. We all greatly rejoice over the good news for our publication department and our prayer is that this new machinery may be greatly blessed in the work of Christ's kingdom all through this region.

I have not much to say at present in regard to the things mentioned in yours of the 27th ult. Some of them were new to me. I do not believe that many of us missionaries think that the capture of Miss Stone was an attack against missionaries and their work. I think that we all recognize that the prime object was as you state it. That affair was a crime and a gross injustice. In view of its successful outcome, it is not surprising that most Bulgarians should either approve or condone it, but I must confess that it is hard for me to excuse Protestants, who ought to know better and who claim that they owe so much to the missionaries, when they deliberately and persistently take such a position. Still it is a very difficult question, and I am trying to learn to put myself in the position of these people and to look at things more from their point of view. I have frequently said that I am very glad I have never been subjected to the temptations they have to meet, both in connection with such matters and in other ways. I have been very careful in what I have written on the subject of the political situation, expressing my views to noke outside of my own fam-

ily circle. Personally I am very grateful for the advice your letter contains and shall try to profit ~~from~~ by it. In regard to the Deltcheff oration, I think I wrote my uncle that those responsible for it claim they did not know of D.'s complicity in the Stone affair. This means a good deal to me. Otherwise, under the circumstances, the oration would have been inexcusably out of place, if not absolutely insulting to us as Americans, no matter what the object of the capture was. I think I also mentioned that Deltcheff is reported to have been opposed to the capture, but after he was overruled and the affair was accomplished he stepped in in order to secure a wise use of the money.

From the daily papers you are doubtless informed of recent events in Macedonia, and anything I may write will be very stale when it reaches you. I presume also that you hear quite frequently direct from Salonica and Monastir. Recent letters from there report to us a disturbed condition of affairs west of the Vardar and around Monastir. The bands are very active, young men in large numbers have been leaving for the mountains and there has been severe fighting. So far the cities have not been especially disturbed. There is a great deal of fear in Salonica and a number of the friends are sleeping every night at the mission property. Mr. Popoff, the preacher at Skopia (Uskup) is at present in Salonica. The Committee demanded £t10 from him and gave him to understand that it is that or death. From another man in the same place they demanded £t45. He refused to pay. They shot him. He was ill a long time but finally recovered. They came to him and said, "Before you refused to pay £t45. Now you must pay £t100."

He has paid £195 and expects to find the rest. Mr. Popoff cannot ~~pay~~ pay the sum demanded of him, nor would it be wise for the station to establish the precedent of paying. The only solution seems to be flight to Bulgaria. Through the English consul in Sofia we have reliable information that 300 bombs were recently found herein Samokov and that the Russian consul in Monastir was shot by a gendarme. From all we can learn about this man he seems to have brought this fate upon himself by rash and overbearing conduct.

This morning we received [illegible] to the effect that the Holmes [illegible] involved [illegible] into Bulgaria at [illegible]. This seems a wise [illegible] and the strain [illegible] this precaution. If it is [illegible] Mr. [illegible] probably [illegible] back to Salonica next week, as Mr. [illegible] is here in Dangov. Dr. H. speaks of going down in the fall [illegible]. Mr. H. is benefiting by his stay here I think. We have just returned from a stay of a week among the pine forests near here where we had a house party, so to speak, in the missionary cottage.

I have received a letter from Mr. Thomson written on the steamer and mailed on landing. The condition of his health was not very reassuring, but he was planning to be here Aug. 29th. We hope he may delay longer. The prospect of a good attendance at our schools is encouraging, though Mr. Haskell thinks no students will be able to come from Macedonia in the regular way. With best greetings

Very sincerely yours

Henry T. Dettweiler.

Samokov, Aug. 12. 1903

Rec'd SEP 9 1903

29

Samokov, Bulgaria, Aug. 28, 1903.

Ans'd OCT 1 1903

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.,
Boston, Mass.,

My dear Doctor Barton,--Mr Baird tells me that Mr. Bond sends directly to you a copy of the very interesting news notes which he is now issuing from time to time, so I do not need to say anything to you in regard to the situation around Monastir and Salonica. There have been some rather interesting developments around here of late, interesting in what they portend rather than because of their present importance. All this week Samokov has been full of Macedonians. Most of them belong to the Razlog district and have been fugitives for some time in Bulgaria or Roumania. I am told that all such fugitives have been summoned by the Macedonian leaders to gather on the border and prepare to cross with arms and ammunition in order to begin or to support the insurrection in the Razlog and Adrianople districts. The first date set for the beginning of this general outbreak was today, but it has been found that that is too soon, and so it will not occur for a few days yet. Large bands are said to be passing through every night, and the khans and the streets are full of Macedonians. The peasant women who bring in berries to sell say that there are many armed and desperate men in the mountains. No effort is being made to conceal the presence and purpose of these Macedonians. I am informed that the attitude of the authorities both here and in Sofia is that they have done enough in the matter of keeping people away from Macedonia, and that now anyone who feels it his duty to be there is free to go so far as they are concerned. This, however, is contradicted by the morning's paper which says that strict orders have been sent to the troops guarding the frontier that no bands are to be allowed to pass. But I think that the bands will continue to cross and that within a short period we shall hear of lively times in all the region just south of the boundary. Pastor Sedloeff, of Mehomia, has gone back to take his share in the movement, and quite a number of our older pupils expect to go within a very few days. Now that it has come to a matter of out and out fighting and their country needs their help, it seems the right thing that they should go, and we can only wish them godspeed and pray that in some way they may succeed in gaining the object for which they are to fight. And during these last days there have been many strange officers in town. I understand that all the cavalry divisions of the Bulgarian army are now manouvering. Saturday and Sunday the local batteries were off in the mountains for practice and reconnoitering. Yet everything on the whole is very quiet here in the city. There has been no violence or disturbance. I was recently assured by one in close touch with the Macedonian movement that these men who are now gathering have only one purpose and that they will stictly refrain from any lawlessness or violence on this side of the boundary. We have no reason thus far to feel at all insecure, though of course we shall be watchful and take all needful precautions.

I understand that you have been directly informed by Mr. Thomson that he thinks the condition of his health requires a prolongation of his leave of absence. We much regret that there is a necessity for this, especially in view of the reason, but we think it is a wise decision, and

Samokov, Aug. 12. 1903

that we shall permanently profit from our temporary loss of his fellowship and service because of the better condition in which he will return to us. Mr. Baird got back from Salonica last Tuesday evening, apparently in good health and none the worse for his month's sojurn in the piping climate of that city. He reports that it was the plan of the Holways to leave by steamer for Constantinople last Monday. Both of them need a rest and change, especially Mrs. H. who has not been very well and has been under a severe nervous strain for some months past. We have not as yet heard whether they have carried out this plan. They want to come to Bulgaria, but were advised not to travel by railroad. Mr. Haskell left here last week Wednesday to return to Salonica. At Philippopolis he too was advised not to travel by rail, so he went down to Constantinople and from there took steamer. He expected to sail, I believe, Tuesday afternoon. Dr. Clarke started yesterday with our pastor's wife to make a tour to Dubnitsa and Stope. They are to be joined by Pastor Furnadjieff of Kustendil and together they will have some rather unpleasant but very important pastoral work to do. Miss Clarke has returned to Sofia after her outing here and in the pine woods, and has XXXXXX moved into the house she has secured for her home and kindergarten for the coming year. She is being congratulated on the improvement in her quarters. In the work of moving she was assisted by Dr. Haskell , who is supplying in Sofia several Sundays in the absence of Pastor Popoff. Mrs. W.P.Clarke and Miss Baird are also now in Sofia for a few days. Miss Malthie has returned from XXX Varna, on the Black Sea, and is ready for another year of work. Both our schools begin next week and the indications still are that we shall have a good attendance. For myself I am able to report that last Sunday I preached my second sermon in Bulgarian, and took charge of the whole of the service myself. It was something of a strain, especially as Dr. Marsh(who, by the way, spent a few days here en route for Sofia, where he has gone in the interests of the Axmatavo church building) and several of the native pastors were in the audience, but it was not as bad as I thought it was going to be and another time I shall not dread it so much.

I am glad to be able to report that we are all well here.

With warmest greetings, I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

Leroy F. Ostrander.

Constantinople, Aug. 28/03

Rec'd OCT 1 1903

Samokov, Bulgaria, Sept. 18, '03

r. James L. Barton,
Boston, Mass.,

Ans'd OCT 1 1903

My dear Dr. Barton:- Though I have nothing of very special interest or mportance to write today, still it may be well to send you a few lines to et you know definitely something about our situation.

If I remember correctly, I told you in my last letter about the presence in Samokov of large numbers of Macedonians from the northern part of the province, who had been summoned here from all over Bulgaria and even rom Roumelia, to cross the border and help the uprising in the region of heir homes. Well, that continued for several weeks and a great many must ave crossed in bands. There was a very martial feeling in the air, though here was no very open manifestation of it. One giant of a man, who was in he band that tried to take Miss Stone from her captors and is outlawed by urkey, is to be a standard bearer when the fighting begins. One day he rought us his bannere and the brass ornament for the flag staff, and showed hem to us with a great deal of pride. The flag is home made and, as he imself said, simple work. It carries the motto, "Liberty or Death" and lion standing on a crescent. One evening a former student, as he was bout to start for Macedonia, came to say good-bye, clad in the full uniform of the Committee. But last week word was received that the beginning f the outbreak in the Razlog had been delayed 15 days, as the immediate scene of trouble was to be around Salonica. For this reason 3 of our students, who were expecting to go and so had not come back to school, have now returned. They say the Committee does not need them at present. To show ow seriously some people are taking the movement I may say that a young an who finished in our school two years ago but since then has been in America, left his work there on the 22nd of Aug. and on the 5th of Sept. as here, ready to go into Macedonia when needed. Another interesting item is that Constantine Stephanoff is liberated. He is the brother of Mrs. Tsilka who finished so successful at Yale a few years ago. He was arrested last winter in Bansko while acting as dragoman for an English newspaper an, and being considered a revolutionist (not without some reason) he was kept in prison for about six months. It was only through the influence of ut side parties, some of them of quite high rank, that he was released after a trial and acquittal. He has had a hard time, but he is now safe in Sofia.

Reports say that the Bulgarian reserves, who were drilled during the spring, are being called out again in the region of Philippopolis, and also those connected with the artillery in our region. It is quite possible that before this reaches you there will be an outbreak of open hostilities etween Turkey and Bulgaria. Meanwhile our schools are going on in much the usual way. We have about 60 on the roll of the boys' school, while the girls' is so full that we have to refuse applications because there is no way to accommodate more students. The preaching force in Macedonia has een further reduced by the flight of pastor Ivan Stephanoff. Without his consent he was made the medium for carrying on the correspondence of the Committee, and he did not dare to stay and take the consequences. He is now in Bulgaria and if arrangements can be made for the transfer of his salary from Salonica, it is likely that he will be given work in the Phil field. Dr. Haskell has just been here on his way back to Phil. and the Holway are getting rest and medical treatment in Const-ple. All well here.

With sincerest greetings, Faithfully yours, L. F. Ostrander.

Author Corr. 28 '03

Samokov, Bulgaria, Sept. 18, '03

Dr. James L. Barton,
Boston, Mass.:

My dear Dr. Barton:- Though I have nothing of very special interest or importance to write today, still it may be well to send you a few lines to let you know definitely something about our situation.

If I remember correctly, I told you in my last letter about the presence in Samokov of large numbers of Macedonians from the northern part of the province, who had been summoned here from all over Bulgaria and even from Roumelia, to cross the border and help the uprising in the region of their homes. Well, that continued for several weeks and a great many must have crossed in bands. There was a very careful footing in the city, though there was no very open manifestation of it. One giant of a man, who was in the band that tried to take Miss Stone from her captors, was caught by the Turks, is to be a student here next year. He is, I think, the man who lost his finger and his finger nails in the fight. He is a very quiet, gentle man, but he is a great giant, and a very good fellow. He was with a great many others in the "Bulgarian" band, advancing on a village, and they were all cut down by the Turks. As he was left for dead, he was simply cut down and left to shift for himself, and he did so, and came to Sofia and was in the hands of the Committee. The last news we have from the region is that there is a great outbreak in the Seres region, and that Tonsantine Stoyanoff is there. He is the man who was arrested in the Parliament as an accomplice of the Macedonian conspirators, and being acquitted, was kept in prison for about six months. It was only through the influence of his side partisan, some officer of quite high rank, that he was released after a trial and acquitted. He has had a hard time, but he is now safe in Sofia.

Reports say that the Bulgarian reserves, who were drilled during the spring, are being called out again in the region of Philippopolis, and also those connected with the artillery in our region. It is quite possible that before this reaches you there will be an outbreak of open hostilities between Turkey and Bulgaria. Meanwhile our schools are going on in much the usual way. We have about 60 on the roll of the boys' school, while the girls' is so full that we have to refuse applications because there is no way to accommodate more students. The preaching force in Macedonia has been further reduced by the flight of pastor Ivan Stepanoff. Without his consent he was made the medium for carrying on the correspondence of the Committee, and he did not dare to stay and take the consequences. He is now in Bulgaria and if arrangements can be made for the transfer of his salary from Salonica, it is likely that he will be given work in the Philippopolis field. Dr. Haskell has just been here on his way back to Phil. and the Lord's way are getting rest and medical treatment in Constantinople, he will work there.

Rec'd OCT 7 1903

31

Samokov, Bulgaria, Sept. 23, 1903.

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.,

Ans'd OCT 8 1903

Boston, Mass.,

My dear Dr. Barton,

The accompanying two enclosures may be of some interest and value as throwing some light on the present situation out here.

The petition is a copy of document prepared by Mr. Ed. Haskell which has just been signed by all the members of our station and will be sent on today to Philippopolis. As soon as the signatures of all the members of the mission are secured, it is to be forwarded to Constantinople. By the time this reaches you, the matter will probably be made public through the press. In that case, I suggest that it might be well to send a copy of this petition to "The Christian Herald" and other agencies which would be likely to be interested in relief work. We ourselves will probably make direct appeals, but they would only strengthen any others that had been made before them.

The letter is a copy of one to Dr. Clarke from Mr. Constantine Stephanoff, the young man about whom I wrote you a few days ago. If you think it worth while you might hand the letter over to the "Congregationalist" for publication. We have not his expressed permission to publish it, but we are confident he will have no objections if names are not used.

There are no new developments in the situation in our vicinity. We are all well, and our work goes on as usual.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Leroy F. Ostrander.

Sept. 23, 1903

Copy

32

Sofia, Bulgaria, Sept. 20, 1903.

My dear -----

I may soon leave Bulgaria for America via England. Now is the time for undertaking to gain aid for our nation. England is up with her warm sympathies and resolutions in favor of Macedonia, and America also is always willing to work for a good and just cause. You may have been informed of the fact that Balkan benevolent society has been founded in London itself with no other man for its president than the world's ablest constitutional writer, Mr. James Bryce. The millionaires Buckstone are sturdy patrons. I shall pass through the city of Paris on my way up, where my old friend Mr. ~~MacDonald~~ is expecting me. He has just gone there for the purpose of rousing the public opinion of France to a joint action with England on behalf of suffering Macedonians.

I am firmly convinced that our righteful cause, our struggles for a humane government, for a guarantee of life and property, and above all our aspirations for a higher life, will soon be fulfilled and realized. Will not God, who knows all, help us in these efforts? I firmly believe he will. We are fighting a most inhumane regime, a rotten system of government, most debasing morals and customs and most of all a religion whose very precepts are such as to instill in the Turk all those revolting manifestations of cruelty, violence and murder against the weak and innocent women, children and old men. On these they revenge themselves after they have been driven from the mountain fastnesses by our fearless little bands. We also have been guilty of shameful deeds, but do we not seem justifiable when you consider that the honor of our sisters and mothers and old men have been so ruthlessly violated and are being violated by the Turk, and Europe, who is indirectly responsible for those crimes standing by as an apathetic onlooker!

Moses came out among his brethren and seeing an Egyptian beating some one of the Israelites, and looking round and seeing that nobody was watching him, he slew the Egyptian. Why? Because "beating" the Israelite. What is to be said in our favor when we are daily robbed, violated and killed in cold blood. We are dealing with the sufferings of a nation, not of an individual, and the morality demanded should be considered as the neutralized virtue of that long subjected race with no other master than the utterly demoralized Asiatic. Asking pardon, the history of the Civil War is not free from disgusting acts committed on both sides. What general movement, whatever its ideals, was free from deeds of violence. Even that of the Reformation was guilty of heinous crimes. The fact is that the time has come when the demoralizing Turkish rule should be replaced by a humane one, worthy of the name and place. God always will cause the better to prevail on the bad.

For my part I thank you all for your sympathetic efforts on my behalf while in the clutches of Turkish power. I have been assured of the fact that if outside influences had not been brought to work for me, I should have been still in the prison with little hope for immediate release. Our duty as Christians is to pray and do, for those on the field to do or die. God, as you will know, accomplishes his purposes of good by men, by work of men for men. With kind regards,

Your friend

Sofia, Bulgaria, Sept. 20, 1903.

My dear Friend:

I may soon leave Bulgaria for America via England. Now is the time for undertaking to gain aid for our nation. England is, with her usual sympathies and resolutions in favor of Macedonia, and America also is always willing to work for a good and just cause. You may have been informed of the fact that B Ikin Tenevelak acted, and he is trusted in London himself with no other man for his resident in a confidential manner, i. e. Dona Algre. The information above is already given. I shall pass my days in exile.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

OCT 17 1903 ~~Rec'd OCT 29 1903~~ Ans'd OCT 29 1903 33

Samokov, Bulgaria, Oct. 2, 1903.

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.,
Boston, Mass.,

My dear Dr. Barton,

The newspaper reports have doubtless informed you long before this will reach you that the insurrection has broken out in the Razlog district. So far as I am able to learn, it began last Sunday or Monday. We knew pretty definitely beforehand that it was to come, and have had it brought to our attention in an interesting and impressive manner. Tuesday evening two of our older students who had expected to crossed over into Macedonia as insurgents about a month ago, but when the uprising was delayed, returned to the school, came to me to say goodbye. They were fully equipped to take their part, with the simple uniform of the revolutionists, guns and 200 cartridges apiece. They were ready to go, but seemed to take the matter rather solemnly, as well they might. Last night three more started, two of them being students of last year. They had quite a sendoff from our boys, and as they left the school grounds I heard some of them say, "They are going to die for Macedonia." But perhaps these last will not get into active fighting right away if the reports we hear this morning are true. A fugitive insurrectionist has reached here from the Razlog. He said that the Turkish soldiers were so numerous and moved so quickly that the bands were taken unprepared, were defeated and dispersed, and are now seeking to escape. The chances of successful fighting seem so poor that other bands that have been forming have been ordered not to enter. This means that the whole district is left to the mercy of the Turks. Burning villages and the slaughter of the inhabitants have already been begun. Mehomia is partly burned and several villages around it. Very soon we may expect refugees in large numbers from that region. We have started a movement to make preparations for caring for them, and have offered to cooperate (as a Protestant community, both Bulgarians and Americans) with the city and government authorities, if that is possible and desirable. Of course it is yet early to tell just how much will have to be done, and what will be the best way to do it. Last Sunday was devoted in our Protestant churches to Macedonia. There was a sermon in the morning here on the subject, and prayermeetings during the day. It is noticeable of late that this belief is gaining ground and is being acted upon, that the only hope of a successful issue of this problem is to be found in the power of God. People are pouring out their hearts to the Lord in behalf of Macedonia. Our school work still goes on, but with so much excitement on every hand it is not strange that the students find it rather difficult to apply themselves to their lessons. Mr. Thomson writes that he was to sail from Liverpool for Constantinople last Tuesday and that he expects to be here about the end of this month. We greatly rejoice that his health is so much improved and hope that he may be able to take things somewhat easily on his arrival here.

I am glad to be able to give a favorable report concerning all of us here. We do not expect serious trouble, for Samokov is considered a very safe place, but we have written for instructions from our government representatives as to what to do in case of need.

Knowing that your prayers and those of other Christian people will continue to rise for bleeding and groaning Macedonia, I remain,

Very sincerely yours,
L. F. Ostrander.

Bank of Rev. Bd. 23 19

Samokov, Bulgaria, Oct. 2, 1903.

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.,
Boston, Mass.,

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Thursday we received a telegram from Sofia, [illegible] Bulgarian [illegible] Samokov, and that will be the less [illegible] to us. Last Sunday was devoted in our Protestant churches to Macedonia. There was a sermon in the morning here on the subject, and prayer-meetings during the day. It is noticeable of late that this belief is gaining ground and is being acted upon, that the only hope of a successful issue of this problem is to be found in the power of God. People are pouring out their hearts to the Lord in behalf of Macedonia. Our school work still goes on, but with so much excitement on every hand it is not strange that the students find it rather difficult to apply themselves to their lessons. Mr. Thomson writes that he was to sail from Liverpool for Constantinople last Tuesday and that he expects to be here about the end of this month. We greatly rejoice that his health is so much improved and hope that he may be able to take things somewhat easily on his arrival here.

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Knowing that your prayers and those of other Christian people will continue to rise for bleeding and groaning Macedonia, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

[illegible]

Received Oct 2, 1903

Rec'd OCT 21 1903

Ans'd OCT 29 1903 34

Samokov, Bulgaria, Oct. 6, 1903.

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.,
Boston, Mass.,

My dear Dr. Barton,

Since my letter of the 2nd inst., the expectation that we would soon see in Samokov the arrival of refugees from Macedonia has been fulfilled. They began to come Saturday noon and have kept on coming since that time more or less steadily, until now more than 2000 have arrived. Almost all of them are from one village, Belitsa, about three hours beyond the boundary on the way to Mehomia from here. The trouble began in their village last Wednesday afternoon, so they were three days on the road. The village is said to be completely burned, but the people were able to save some of their possessions in the line of clothing and bedding. They also succeeding in bringing with them a large number of their horses and cattle. This was made possible by the help of a band of insurrectionists who came to the assistance of the villagers after the place was attacked by the Turkish soldiers and who fought long and valiantly, thus allowing the women and children and the unarmed men to escape. I have not heard any estimate of the losses that were sustained by the contending parties.

While the condition of these refugees is not one of extreme destitution, still they present a pitiable spectacle. As they came in Saturday afternoon, many of them were footsore and weary. Some of them had become separated from the other members of their families and did not know whether they were alive or dead. One man who had made an effort to save his cattle had thus lost his wife and children and was trying to find them after he got here. And then there is the thought that they have left everything behind them, and with the exception of a few who may have a little money, have absolutely nothing to depend upon and must begin life all over again. The condition of many of the women and of the little children was very touching. I saw one mother carrying one child on her back, another on her arm and leading a third by the hand. There were scores of little babies that could not walk and had to be carried on the backs of their mothers. Many of the women were pregnant and near the time of confinement. One of these with whom we talked had had to carry her little girl a great deal during the three days' journey and was suffering intensely. There were four births while the company was on the road and several deaths. Think of the women having to get up after labor and continue the journey! One mother had to leave her new born babe on the Turkish side in the care of an old woman who could not go any farther. And then there are the old and the sick, some of whom nearly died on the way and now need care and attention. It all brings out the cry, "How long, O Lord."

The thought has come many times of late, what a blessing that these people were able to escape to free Bulgaria, and feel that their lives are safe, and on the other hand, how pitiable must be the lot of those who can not flee and do not know when their turn will come to be slaughtered and outraged. The matter of relief for these fugitives is in the hands of the government, and so far seem to be well attended to. As they arrived they were met by police officers and taken to the various khans or to the large vacant buildings of the Bulgarian Theological School that has lately been removed to Sofia. A committe of citizens has been appointed to open subscriptions and oversee the administration of relief. Bread and other food is dis-

tributed every day. The hospital is open to the most needy and they are attended to by the city doctors. A Red Cross sister from Russia, under the auspices of the Russian Consul in Sofia, has arrived and is giving her assistance. I understand that the government is making appropriations. As fast as possible the people are being distributed to other villages and cities as the accommodations will soon be needed by other refugees. Our Protestant community has raised money and is turning it over ~~the~~ to the committee, while the ladies are making shirts and other garments and are helping to minister to the comfort of the most needy women. Unfortunately this is, we fear, only the beginning, and we shall probably need outside assistance before long.

There seems to have been a lack of understading among the insurgents, or at least a miscarriage of plans, for there was no concerted action among them. The statement in my last letter that the country is now largely at the mercy of the Turks seems to be confirmed. However, the bands have not given up the struggle, and as soon as they have assisted to get as many fugitives as possible out of the country they will return to renew the fighting. More than a hundred have been here in Samokov during the last few days. It was reported that Pastor Sedloeff and two former students of our school were in Mehomia when it was burned, and at first it was not known what had become of them. It is now learned that they are safe. We hear today that Yakorudia is burning and that the people are fleeing.

We are all well here, but naturally we feel the burden of the suffering we see around us, and of that which we know is so much worse not far away from us. Dr. Clarke and a committee of Bulgarians were in Dubnitsa for pastoral work on Sunday. We have received word that the Mission's petition for relief work has been unanimously signed and has been forwarded to Constantinople, and a reference to it has appeared in the London Times. Hoping and praying that you will have a splendid meeting of the Board, and rejoicing that the year has closed without a debt, I remain, with Christian greetings,

Cordially yours,

Leroy F. Ostrander.

Sarah Ross Oct. 6, 1903

Rec'd NOV 7 1903

Samokov, Bulgaria, Oct. 20, 1903.

Rec'd NOV 19 1903

Rev. James L. Barton, D. D.,
Boston, Mass.,

My dear Dr. Barton,

I have to acknowlege the receipt of your letter of the 1st. inst. which came to hand a few days ago. I am glad if anything I have written has been of use to you, and only wish that I might write more fully and satisfactorily.

There is no very material change in the situation over here. I think I mentioned in my last that there have been a number of correspondents here. Two of them stayed several days in the hope of getting a chance to enter Macedonia with one of the bands. Last Friday they were told that it would be impossible for the bands to carry on any operations for at least ten days, and so they went on to Phil-lis. The reasons for this are that the Razlog is full of Turkish soldiers and that the Bulgarian forces on this side of the frontier are now really trying to prevent the passage of bands. This is significant as an indication of a change of attitude on the part of the government. Bulgaria has called out the reserves belonging to more than 12 conscriptions, and there are 800 new soldiers here in Samokov. As an indication that the bands are not carrying on extensive operations just now is the fact that some whom we know to have been in them have returned and are now engaged in their former occupations. Refugees continue to come and go but not in very large numbers. It is reported that some have arrived from Bansko, although I have not been able to verify this as yet. The cold weather and the snowstorm which we have had today furnish an unpleasant forecast of the sufferings that are in store during the coming winter. We are having a little unpleasantness with the local relief committee because some of them think we want to use these opportunities to help for proselyting, but we shall be very careful and try to cooperated with them as much as possible. I fear the need will soon be great, as they are getting to the bottom of their funds.

Pastors Popoff and Furnajieff expect to start this week for America to solicit aid for the refugees and sufferers. Pastor F. goes with our endorsement. Pastor Popoff has a letter of recommendation from us, but we do not feel that we can endorse his going so heartily. He did not consult with us at all before he made his plans and announced his decision, and we greatly question the wisdom of his going and leaving his church to care for itself for so long a time. Of course we sympathize with his object and want him to succeed, but we would hardly have advised his going, I think. If you meet these two gentlemen, or have any opportunity to advise them, I think it would be well to try to make them see how much their case would be strengthened in America if they arrange to have some American on the committee which to control the expenditure of the money in this region. He can be an inconspicuous member, but still I think that Americans will demand that there should be one on the local committee.

We expect to hear every day of Mr. Thomson's arrival in Cons. and in a week or two he will probably be here. I am glad to be able to report all well here and that our work goes on as usual.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

L. F. Ostrander.

Samokov, Bulgaria, Oct. 20, 1903.

Rev. James L. Barton, D. D.,
Boston, Mass.,

My dear Dr. Barton,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st. inst. which came to hand a few days ago. I am glad if anything I have written has been of use to you, and only wish that I might write more fully and satisfactorily.

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[illegible] Bulgarian Foreign Minister expected to come to Sofia [illegible] the passage of [illegible] Sofia [illegible] change of [illegible] reserves [illegible] soldiers [illegible] on [illegible] case [illegible] the local relief committee [illegible] opportunities [illegible] to see [illegible] the press, as she is getting [illegible] Bulgaria [illegible] Bulgaria [illegible] solicit aid for the refugees and sufferers. [illegible] good when our enforcement. Pastor Popoff has a letter of recommendation from us, but we do not feel that we can endorse his going so heartily. He did not consult with us at all before he made his plans and announced his decision, and we greatly question the wisdom of his going and leaving his church to care for itself for so long a time. Of course we sympathize with his object and want him to succeed, but we would hardly advise his going, I think. If you meet these two gentlemen, or have any opportunity to advise them, I think it would be well to try to make them see how much their case would be strengthened in America if they arrange to have some American on the committee which to control the expenditure of the money in this region. He can be an inconspicuous member, but still I think that Americans will demand that there should be one on the local committee.

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With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

J. F. Clatterbuck

Editor Pop. Cong. Oct. 20, 1903

Rec'd NOV 9 1903

Samokov, Bulgaria, Oct. 27, 1903.

Rec'd NOV 19 1903

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.,
Boston, Mass.,

My dear Dr. Barton, -- Your letter of the ninth inst. was received this morning. I have made copies of it and will send them on to the other stations today. When the time for the next annual reports comes around ~~again~~ I will try to remember to remind the members of the other stations to give the statistics and facts which you desire. I do not understand from your letter that you want now to get the statistics which were missing this year. If you desire them I should be glad to do all that I can to obtain them for you.

We are very glad indeed of the news that you can give us in regard to relief money. From what I know of the situation, I should say that the need is most pressing in Macedonia, and so we must hear from the brethren there before we can act definitely in regard to the matter of a despatch. We also want to hear what Mr. Peet has to say. Although I cannot report definitely for other places in Bulgaria, I can say that in general the situation in this country is very different from what it is in Macedonia. Here there is sympathy with the sufferers and the willingness and the ability, to a great extent, to help. The 800 refugees now in Samokov are well cared for, and the local committee has recently received a considerable sum of money either from Sofia or from Russian sources. The greatest need now is provision in the way of clothing and bedding for winter weather. We are trying to learn the exact condition in some of the neighboring villages where there are refugees, and it may be that there will be an immediate and imperative call for help from them. I cannot say as to Bourgas and other places, though I think the need is greater there than ~~in other places~~ here. Still, before the winter is over there will doubtless be demands enough from all these places, and if the destitute are to be helped to a new start in life, that will call for a great deal of money. Our Protestant community is spending about $75 in the making of quilts and matresses which are given to the most needy. We cannot give our money directly to the local committee because they are not willing to allow us a representative and we are not able to have full confidence in them. They are willing, however, to let us furnish and distribute such things as the above mentioned.

Last week the number of soldiers in Samokov ran up to nearly 2000, but many of them have now been dismissed, for a time at least, because of the election to be held next Sunday. We hope that this will pass off without serious trouble, and that its results will not complicate matters. We expect Mr. Thomson Friday evening and after he resumes his work Mr. Baird may go to Macedonia. Pastors Furnajieff and Popoff are now on the way to America, and probably will arrive about the time this letter does. Mrs. F. and her boys are to live with us during his absence.

Mrs. Ostrander hands me to send to you the enclosed snaps from her camera. They may be of interest in giving you glimpses of the refugees whom we have among us. I have made a few comments on the back of them.

All are well here, and our work goes on just about the same as usual though we have many extra things to think and plan about.

With best regards, I remain,

Sincerely yours, L. F. Ostrander.

Bulgaria Oct. 27 1903

Samokov, Bulgaria, Oct. 27, 1903.

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.,
Boston, Mass.,

My dear Dr. Barton, -- Your letter of the ninth inst. was received this morning. I have made copies of it and will send them on to the other stations today. When the time for the next annual reports comes around I will try to remember to remind the members of the other stations to give the statistics and facts which you desire. I do not understand from your letter that you want now to get the statistics which are missing this year. If you desire them I should be glad to do all I can to obtain them for you.

We are very glad indeed of the news that you can give us in regard to relief money. From what I know of the situation, I should say that the need is most pressing in Macedonia, and in the Kostendil region. There refugees are now coming in rapidly in regard to which we can do nothing. We are almost sure to need some relief for them in and around Samokov. The situation in this city is very different from what it is in Macedonia. There is a great deal more ability to help themselves. There is also a great deal more ability to give. Thus far, I think, there has been no great suffering for want of food. Of course, there will be great need for fuel and clothing before the winter is over. Many families have lost their all. Some, indeed, I think, have lost their lives. Our first community in Samokov, and also in Dupnitza, has given to the relief of the refugees in the most ready way. We cannot give our money directly to the local committee because they are not willing to allow us a representative and we are not able to have full confidence in them. They are willing, however, to let us furnish and distribute such things as the above mentioned.

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All are well here, and our work goes on just about the same as usual though we have many extra things to think and plan about.

With best regards, I remain,

Sincerely yours, L. T. Ostrander

Letter Rec'd Oct. 27, 1903

Rec'd NOV 18 1903

Samokov, Bulgaria, Nov. 3, 1903.

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.,
Boston, Mass.,

Rec'd NOV 19 1903

My dear Dr. Barton,

There is nothing of very special importance to communicate to you today, but a few remarks of a general character may be both interesting and reassuring.

The international political situation seems to be very much improved. As I wrote last week, the Bulgaria reserves who had been called out were dismissed about a week before the general election and I hardly think that they will be called out again this fall. It seems to be the general opinion that the danger of a war between Bulgaria and Turkey has passed for the time being. Mr. Bond's statement that the bands in the region of Monastir are thinning their ranks may be made with equal truth in regard to those in northern Macedonia. We are told XXXX by those who thoroughly understand the situation that there are practically none of the insurrectionists left in the mountains. Some whom we know to have been in bands have returned here and resumed their former ways of living for the winter. Among these are the students of whose departure I have previously written. Only one of them, however, has returned to the school. Two who were students last year are reported as killed in Mehomia. About one of them, a Protestant church member, there seems to be no doubt. It is said that his head was cut off and left kicking about the streets as a object lesson. The headless bodies of five relatives were buried in one grave. Pastor Sedloeff, of Mehomia, after having been in the mountains for 2 months, has succeeded in reaching Bulgaria with his daughter, coming with a company of about 70 others, among whom were the lady teachers of Bansko. Pastor Stephanoff, of Radovish, is now in Kustendil taking the place of Pastor Furnajieff.

There is nothing new in the way of relief work here in Samokov. Imitation is the best flattery, and so we ought to feel gratified that the local benevolent society is following our example in making quilts and mattresses for the refugees. Dr. Clarke has received £50 from the B.L.M.A.Society. Half of this will probably be sent to the Razlog. The latest word from Mr. Peet is that the missionaries ought to let the Red Cross manage the distribution of relief as far as possible, and that he is quite sure ~~they~~ the society will be ready and will be allowed to take up the work. You doubtless hear directly from Mr. Bond. He has recently written to us saying that they think one of the missionaries in Bulgaria should go to Salonica for a time, as it is probable that Mr. Haskell will be engaged in relief work around Monastir all winter. They suggest Mr. Baird or Mr. Thomson. But as it has practically been decided that Dr. and Mrs. Haskell will have to spend the winter in Salonica, we do not think it necessary for Mr. Baird to go to Macedonia for the present or until the need of more missionaries for distinctively relief work becomes imperative. It is also suggested that Mr. Holway, when he returns from getting his wife settled for her sojourn in Switzerland, should come to Philippopolis where he could take up some of Dr. Haskell's work and at the same time have a chance for the further study and practice of Bulgarian, for which he is very anxious. So you see there is quite a good deal of shifting about in the arrangement of our mission force of workers. Mr. Thomson arrived

Samokov, Bulgaria, Oct. 27/1903

here Friday evening, and I am happy to be able to tell you that he both looks and feels very well. It has been agreed that he is to resume the duties of Director of the C. & T. I., and at the same time carry on some Bible revision work for Mr. Bowen of the American Bible Society. Mr. Baird in the meantime is going to continue in charge of the Publication department at least until the end of the current school year.

This week the meeting of the Eastern Conference is to be held in Patar Pazarjik and next Saturday evening the annual conference of the western group of churches is to begin in Dubnitsa. Quite a number from this station expect to attend the latter.

We have received the paper giving the account of the annual meeting of the Board, and gratefully acknowledge it.

With cordial greetings, I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

L. F. Ostrander.

Rev. Dr. Vaughan, Nov. 2/92

Letter from

REC'D DEC 5 1903 38

Samokov, Bulgaria, ~~Nov. 18, 1903.~~ Nov 5

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.,
Boston, Mass.,

My dear Dr. Barton,

Since last writing I have received yours of the 29th ult., the contents of which has been duly forwarded to the other stations of the mission. We hardly expected that you would be able to do much in the way correcting the misstatements already made in the "Advance", but thought that you might possibly be influential in helping to avoid the repetition of such mistakes in the future, and would be inclined to make earnest efforts to do so if you knew how strongly we feel on the subject. I learn from the "Zornitsa" that Mr. Vladimir Tsanoff has categorically declared before an audience that the people for whom relief money is being raised are not the ones who kidnapped Miss Stone, and in a certain sense and in so far as it has a practical bearing on the question of the hour, that is true. In another sense, of course, it is not true.

We are glad to hear of your plans for the raising and sending of relief money and hope that the response may be speedy and generous. We are also of the opinion that the bulk of the money ~~so raised~~ should go to Macedonia, for the need there is certainly as great as here and the provisions for meeting it much less. On the other hand we hope that we shall not be left without some share. We constantly have appeals for help that we feel ought to be answered, and yet we cannot answer them because we have no money. This week we could spend $300 or $400 so as to do a great deal of good in furnishing needed relief in Samokov and its vicinity. Dr. Clarke left last Saturday to go to Bourgas with Mrs. Allen, an English quakeress with whom he worked some years ago among the Armenians in the same city, to help her inaugurate a work there which will doubtless be kept up all winter. He expects to be gone about two weeks. Mr. Bond writes that they urgently desire a man for Salonica in Mr. Haskell's absence, and it is probable that Dr. Haskell and the whole family will soon start for that city for the winter. The Pres. of the Balkan Committee in London writes that he thinks English speaking Bulgarians could do a great deal of good in England just now and says that he will gladly cooperate with them if any come. It is possible that some of the pastors from our mission or from North Bulgaria, or Mr. Vatralsky may arrange to go.

We had a good conference in Dubnitsa, and I think it was especially helpful to the friends in that city. At first the police authorities did not allow us to hold our meetings, because non-residents were to take part in them and notice of the meetings had not been officially given to the government, as the law requires. Dr. Clarke telegraphed to the English Consul in Sofia asking his assistance in getting permission, and then we postponed opening the sessions from Saturday evening till Sunday morning. It was my privilege to lead the first prayermeeting. During the meeting a policeman came and told us that we had permission to hold our meeting there or anywhere else we liked. We don't know how much the telegram had to do with it, but some of us think the matter could have been arranged without making that appeal to a foreign official.. All are well here and work is going on nicely and in the usual manner. With best greetings,

Very sincerely yours,

L. F. Ostrander

Samarkar - Nov. 19, 03.

Rec'd FEB 15 1904 34

Samokov, Bulgaria, Jan. 29, 1904.

Ans'd FEB 15 1904

Rev. James L. Barton, D. D.,
Boston, Mass.,

My dear Dr. Barton,

I am in receipt of yours of the 6 th and 7th inst., which came about a week ago, and the contents of which have been duly forwarded to the other stations. Your news in regard to the special arrangement for the Zornitsa in connection with Mr. Thomson's work for the Bible Society and the special gift of £t25 for the same purpose is most welcome and I am sure it has caused great rejoicing in all our mission circle. We are also very glad that the Prudential Committee could make that special grant to the Holways. The $10,000 from the "Christian Herald" of which you write has already been received and our share of it is now being worn by the refugees in the shape of warm, thick clothing.

In connection with the work for the Bible Society, Mr. Thomson wishes me to inform you that he has just received word that the honorarium will amount to within a lira or two of £t150, the payments to be scattered over a period of 18 months or 2 years from the time when the work was begun (Sept. 1903), the first payment to be made somewhere about Easter time. In regard to Mrs. Holway, I cannot write as encouragingly as I would like to. From the reports we get it would seem that she is not making either rapid or marked improvement. But we hope and pray that we may soon get other reports.

Your letter in regard to Mr. Popoff was accompanied by one from him telling us about his return. We were much surprised and hardly knew what to do in the matter. We want to help the Macedonian work all we can, but at the same time we feel that such an important church as the Sofia one should not be allowed to suffer. We finally decided to inform Mr. Popoff and his church committee that it is our opinion that he should not postpone the resumption of his full pastoral duties latter than Easter, and we trust that he will act in accordance with this advice. I was in Sofia to consult with him in regard to Macedonian relief work and the formation of the "Christian Herald" committee. We rather doubted the advisability of such an organization, but as it seems to be chiefly the utilizing of forces now in operation in order to increase interest and gifts in America, we decided to co-operate and to be considered members of the committee. Mr. Ed. Haswell was made chairman, and there were two orthodox people present and two others have consented to serve as members. Mr. Popoff's main work will be that of collecting and forwarding reliable and interesting information, in regard to sufferings, present conditions and needs.

I have today started a circular vote proposing, in behalf of our station, that annual meeting be held here early in April, during the Easter holidays. The political situation is so uncertain that nothing can be settled until the last moment, but we feel that the meeting ought to be held, if possible, before summer. The general opinion is that there is to be serious trouble between Bulgaria and Turkey, and that before very long. God grant that the horrors of war may somehow be averted, and yet justice and righteousness prevail.

With Christian greetings, Sincerely yours,
L. F. Ostrander

Sofia, Jan. 24, 1924.

Rev. James L. Barton, D. D.,
Boston, Mass.,

My dear Dr. Barton,

I am in receipt of your office of Jan. 7th inst., which
about a week ago, and the contents of which have been duly forwarded
the other stations. I am home in regard to the proposed arrangement
the Centrals in security. Thanks a week for the Bible Soci-
and the official gift of $500.00 for the Sofia Bible Society.
[illegible] in the [illegible] circulation. We are
[illegible] "General Conference" of which you
[illegible] for [illegible] by

Sofia, Jan. 24, 1924.

40

Rec'd APR 21 1904

Samokov, Bulgaria,
April 5, 1904.

Rev. James L. Barton, D. D.,
Boston, Mass,

My dear Dr. Barton,

Ans'd MAY 31 1904

I wish hereby to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 11th and 18th ult. and the enclosure accompanying the latter, all of which have been duly copied and forwarded to the other stations of the mission. As most of the matters you touched upon related to our coming annual meeting, perhaps it will be best that I should wait until after that has taken place before making any comments or attempting to reply, so that we may both have the benefit our our deliberations during the meeting. Almost all of the subjects which you have mentioned, an orphanage, industrial institutions, the teaching force of the C. and T. I. and the possible removal of the G. B. S., are sure to come up and it is certain that they will have full and free discussion. The question which seems likely to cause us the most perplexity is the supply of the field for the coming year. The condition of Mr. Haskell's family of small children and the state of Mrs. Holway's health greatly complicate the problem of readjust- of available forces. Another matter which is causing us some dissatisfaction and which will call for earnest discussion is the failure of the native Protestants to make any progress or even to hold their own in the matter of self support. As to the causes of this I prefer to say nothing until later. Our meeting begins tomorrow and we are expecting the delegates from the other stations to arrive this evening. We feel our need of the special guidance of the Holy Spirit this year, and it is a great comforts for us to feel that many who cannot be with us in bodily presence will pray for the outpouring of the divine blessing upon us.

Although the tabular view of our Samokov station has been ready for some time, I have purposely kept it inorder to send it along with the documents of the Annual Meeting. You probably have received the statistics from the other stations.

I have nothing of special interest to write in regard to the present political condition. Things seem to be quiet around us, and Bulgaria is holding things in check. The progress of the so-called reforms is exceedingly slow and little seems to have been accomplished for the return of the refugees to their homes, although Dr. Marsh feels that there is some reason to hope that it may be arranged for those from the Adrianople vilayet to go back. Yesterday at noon occurred two very severe earthquake shocks, and the disturbance seems to have been felt in many part of Bulgaria even more severely than here. Several stone and brick buildings were very badly injured in Samokov and one old wooden building was ruined. I am thankful to be able to report that our buildings, as far as we can see, escaped serious injury. Plaster fell in some of the school buildings and one of the walls of the church was somewhat damaged. Naturally many were much frightened, especially the students in the G. B. S. Mr. Thomson thinks the shocks were about as severe as those in Constantinople ten years ago.

Hoping soon to send you a full account of our meeting, I am,

With warmest greetings, Very sincerely yours, L. F. Ostrander.

Mr. & Mrs. Cunningham
Gouverneur, Apr. 5th

Rec'd MAY 9 1904

Samokov, Bulgaria,
April 25, 1904.

Ans'd MAY 11 1904

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.,
Boston, Mass.,
My dear Dr. Barton,

I hope you will pardon my delay in getting off to you the various documents connected with our annual meeting. Owing to the inability of Dr. Haskell, the selected delegate to the annual meeting of the Bulgarian Evangelical Society, to attend, it fell to me as his alternate to go. I had to start the morning after our meeting closed, and even so was nearly two days late. Since my return I have been trying to get the clerical work of our meeting finished up, and I think I now have it in such shape that I can send it on to you. I trust that you will find it full and satisfactory in every way. You will notice that in the minutes I give the results mainly and abridge the processes as much as possible.

Dr. Marsh and I attended the Bulgarian meeting, and I am glad that we could be there. On the whole I think it was a successful meeting. The attendance was good, if not large, and the evening meetings packed the church. The prayer meetings were earnest and helpful, and the addresses and sermon excellent. XX It was my privilege to lead one of the prayer meetings, taking for my topic, "The Cultivation of the XXXXXXXXXXXX Consciousness of the Divine Presence."

You will be interested to learn what was done in regard to the Zornitsa. The answer to the question in regard to the financial responsibility was left to the trustees of the Society, with instructions to consult with the missionary administrative committee of the paper, and to give the desired answer not later than Nov. 1st. If absolutely necessary, they would rather have it published in Samokov than to have it discontinued altogether, provided that there is no change in its character; if that must be changed too, then they voted that it would be better to have it discontinued, for it would be sure to die a slow death, as the country is not yet ready to support a purely religious paper. I had some good talks with several and tried to urge upon them the necessity of greater efforts to make the paper more nearly self-supporting. I was glad to see that some think it can be done.

Unfortunately there was some unpleasant feeling on the part of Pastor Popoff and some others over the closing up of the Christian Herald relief fund. The trouble arises from some alleged charges of misappropriation of money by members of the Christian Herald Committee for revolutionary purposes, and the suspicion that missionaries have made these charges. I was able to tell them that no missionary has made such charges, and tried to make them see that it must be a misunderstanding, based on a wrong interpretation of certain strong letters that have been written to Dr. Klopsch. I am doing what I can to clear the matter up more satisfactorily.

Our schools have opened again after vacation with everything all right, and we hope for a good final term.

With best regards, I remain, Cordially yours,
L. F. Ostrander.

April 23, 1964

Rec'd AUG 18 1904

Samokov, Bulgaria, Aug. 4, 1904.

Rev. James L. Barton, D. D.,
Boston, Mass.,

Ans'd SEP 29 1904

My dear Dr. Barton

I have received yours of May 12, May 31, and June 30, and these have been copied and forwarded to the other stations. I am afraid, though, that not one of them has been answered, and I greatly regret that I have let such a long time pass without writing. One reason is that I have allowed a press of work in other lines to defer me from this, and another one is that I have been hoping all along that things would take such a turn that I would be able to write more definitely and encouragingly about certain matters. I shall not attempt to make comments on the matters now, but will simply state some facts and let you draw your own conclusion.

Our schools closed the last week in June. The graduating class at the Girls' School was a large and satisfactory one, and the closing exercises passed off very nicely. They were held Wednesday, and for the first time in the church, which was full to overflowing. The exercises of the Boys' School took place on Thursday afternoon. There were only four gratuates, and unfortunately we cannot feel as much satisfaction in this class as we have felt in many others. The school year that has closed was on the whole rather unsatisfactory. There seemed to be a spirit of rebellion and of distrust and coldness towards the teachers on the part of some of the pupils, and there were no manifest spiritual results. Still more may have been accomplished than we know of. At the annual meeting of the trustees, Mr. Thomson tendered his resignation as Director, and I was elected to take his place. It is my prayer that God will guide and help me in all the work connected with this responsible place.

Another thing that has been causing us some anxiety is the attitude and actions of some of the native pastors. Mr. Xristoff has left his work in Yambul and is now in America. It is rather hard to get at the reasons for this step, but from what he has written we judge that there are two main ones. One is, the financial difficulties connected with his work in Yambul, and the other is, a sense of injury arising out of what has occurred between some of the missionaries and some of the native pastors in connection with relief work. Dr. Marsh wrote a strong letter to the Christian Herald, as also did others, cautioning them about putting money into the hands of Bulgarians, and they were indiscrete, to say the least, in the use they made of this advice. It has got back here and has caused considerable hard feeling. Anyway, Mr. Xristoff is away, feeling quite bitter, and is finding it none too easy to get along in America. Then Mr. Bagranoff, of Pirdope, writes that he wants to get married and must have a certain salary from the station, and if we can't give it, we must accept his resignation. He has been informed that the funds of the station do not allow us to give him the salary he asks for, but we have not yet heard that he has

left. Mr. Furhajieff is back from his mission to America, and tells us that he expects to return to Kustendil, but says that he cannot much longer live on the salary that he gets there, so we need not be surprised if he takes up some additional work, or goes into some other line of Christian or philanthropic activity. On the other hand, Pastor Setchanoff has returned from his trip to Britain greatly strengthened and uplifted, and desirous of doing something to improve the spiritual condition of our native church. I understand that there is to be a conference of pastors during August, and I hope that they will get great benefit from it.

Dr. and Mrs. Marsh have been all the summer in the Adrianople region, and I understand have been down to Constantinople. Miss Cole is spending her vacation here. The Holways arrived last week and Mr. Holway has gone on to Salonica to spend this month there. He was accompanied by Miss Maltbie who is going to visit for a time with the Haskells in Monastir. Mrs. Holway is quite well, but is far from strong and does not seem capable of much effort as yet. She will take it easy for a time. Mr. Haskell, I understand, expects to go soon to Switzerland for a time to become acquainted with the family of the young lady he is to marry. Miss Baird is away at the baths at Lujene for a few weeks rest and change. Dr. Clarke and Miss Clarke have just completed a tour to Ichteman and Pirdope, and Mr. and Mrs. Clarke are in the midst of their packing preparatory to their removing to Monastir. Mrs. Ostrander and I expect to go to Sofia for a few days this morning, largely on business connected with our new living apartments in the Boys' School, and I expect to preach there on Sunday. Mr. Baird, so far, has been here in charge of repairs, but has made various trips on Sundays. So in one way or another we are keeping busy.

In regard to the hospital fund, I would say that Mr. Baird and Mr. Clarke have investigated the sources from which it was derived and find that part of it came from the income of the medical department, and so is under the control of the mission. All that was derived directly from gifts from America either has been or will be sent to Mr. Peet for Dr. Dodd's hospital work.

The Sofia church building is in great need of repair, and the people have asked us to help them in the necessary work. We have replied that we have no money available for such a purpose. Do you know of any that could be found for them? Perhaps after I have been in Sofia I will write more fully about this.

The political condition is fairly quiet, although things in Macedonia are not as satisfactory as might be desired. There are frequent conflicts between insurgents and troops, and there is talk of another uprising after harvest. We sincerely hope it will not come to that.

With best regards and Christian greetings, I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

L. F. Ostrander.

4 Aug 1904

Rec'd OCT 31 1904

Ans'd NOV 5 1904

Samokov, Bulgaria,
Oct. 15, 1904.

Rev. James L. Barton, D. D.,
Boston, Mass.,

My dear Dr. Barton,

After putting on file your letter of July 28, which was received Aug. 10, I somehow got the impression that it had been answered and it was only on looking over the file a few days ago that I discovered that this is not so. I regret the mistake, for although I have been very busy the past six weeks, still I would have taken the time from something else to write to you if I had realized that I was owing you a letter. In any case I will try not to let such a long time pass again without sending you something, whether it is my turn to write or not.

Your letter was forwarded to the other stations of the Mission, and in due time action will probably be taken in regard to the main matter it dealt with, viz: new missionaries and the vernacular. In passing I may say that last year a committee, or rather two committees were appointed to examine the Holways and ourselves. Mrs. Ostrander and I have had one examination and doubtless will have another when it is convenient for the committee to hold it. I agree with you that it would be very desirable to have a permanent committee on the vernacular. It would have been a great help to us if some of the more experienced missionaries had mapped out a course of study for us to follow, for we find that the native teachers do not have much of an idea as to how to teach the language to a foreigner. We devoted almost all of our time the first year to the language and so have a fair working knowledge of it, but there is yet a great deal that we must learn and we must also become more proficient in the correct and free use of it.

Enclosed you will please find a list of name of persons to whom we should like to have the leaflet in regard to the Collegiate and Theological Institute sent. They are all personal friends or relatives of Mrs. Ostrander and myself. As I am a presbyterian the circle of those to whom I can appeal for such a purpose is limmited. I hope the other members of the missions have acted or will act in this matter, for I think the school is desperately in need of funds. In a short time I hope to write to you setting forth more at length my views in regard to it.

I also enclose a copy of a part of a letter that I wrote to Dr. Haskell in connection with a certain matter. I think that this matter, which relates to Dr. Clarke, has been brought to your attention by Mr. Thomson and possibly from another source. If you think that it warrants further attention from you, then please read the letter, which is an explanation of our course of action. Otherwise I will ask you to please destroy it. It has been arranged that Dr. Clarke shall take his special subjects, geology and mineralogy, this year as usual, finishing them up at the end of the first half year, at which time he is planning to remove to Sofia to take up his residence with his daughter.

You will be interested to know that the schools have opened under very favorable conditions. The Girls' School is again crowded to the doors and more could have been received if there had been accommoda-

tions for them. They now have about ninety on the roll, I believe. We cannot report such a large attendance in our school, but still the figures are good. We have 59 scholars all told, of whom 52 are boarders. With us there have been some changes in the teaching force which we think will prove to be improvements. We have also introduced some new features in connection with the school work and hope to introduce still others during the year. One of these features is an English service once a month on Sunday evening, which promises to prove interesting and helpful to the students who can understand English, the teachers and English speaking friends, and -- the missionaries. We also hope to have a course of lectures given in the school hall by the members of the teaching staff and others who are qualified, and we want these to be free to the general public of the city. Just before the school opened one of the teachers we had engaged failed us and we had some delay before his place could be filled. This has been satisfactorily done, however, and we are now fully manned. The Girls' Sch'l also had to wait a long time before they could get a music teacher, but this difficulty has been solved by the arrival of Mrs. Malthie, of Champlain, Ill., who is going to take the work for a year. She comes to us on particularly generous terms, and we can only hope that she will get as much benefit from her experiences among us as we shall from her stay here. She arrived on Wednesday, the 12th inst. and is already settled and started in her work. We are praying and hoping for God's guidance and help so that the present year may be one of rich spiritual blessing to all our students.

Mr. Holway returned early in September from his month's sojourn in Salonica, and has now taken up his work as a member of this station. He has practicaly all the work that Mr. Clarke had, the only difference being that he has two hours less of teaching and has not the superintendency of the Woodwork Department. Some think that he has too much to do, and so, although there has been no word of protest or complaint from him, I shall try to arrange it so that he shall have less hours of teaching work. Mrs. Holway is fairly well but does not seem to gain in health and strength the way we would like to see her. We earnestly hope that they will be able to continue to reside in Samokov.

I do not know that I have any very special news to give you in regard to the other stations. Mr. and Mrs. Clarke are now well settled in Monastir and have taken up the work there, but I cannot at present send any details concerning their work. The Haskells are all back in Salonica after their absences in Monastir and Switzerland, and no doubt are eagerly awaiting the arrival of Dr. and Mrs. House whom we expect early in November. Dr. Haskell is planning to come back to Philippopolis for the winter but it is not certain that Mrs. Haskells health will allow them to do so. Miss Haskell will be wanted here in the Girls' School after Christmas, and the ladies are hoping that she can be persuaded to return ~~here~~. Dr. and Mrs. Marsh write telling of busy times in the Adrianople region and it is evident that they are doing a great deal of good in places where there is much need of work along relief lines. They have recently been joined by Mrs. King-Lewis from England. Dr. Marsh does not expect to be able to re-

turn to Philippopolis before the first of November.

In my last I think I mentioned to you that the Sofia church is desirous of making repairs and alterations in its building. I was in Sofia last summer for a few days and had the privilege of preaching for Pastor Popoff one Sunday morning. I also had a long talk with him about the needs of the building and the general condition of the church. We looked over the church edifice together. There certainly is great need of repairs if the building is even to be kept in a safe and usable condition, to say nothing of making it attractive for people in such a place as is Sofia, the capital of the country. The church has already begun to work for the raising of the money and during the week appeals were received by many people here in Samokov. But it seems like a pretty serious undertaking for them to get the $2000 needed. Mr. Popoff told me some things about the financial condition of the church which are not very encouraging. Beginning with his return from America, the trustees of the church have reduced his salary from 250 to 200 francs a month. He continues to work on this reduced salary, although it obliges him to engage in other lines of work to help out his income. The contributing members of the congregation have greatly decreased in number, partly because of emigration to America, partly because of diminished ability to give. At one time there were between 50 and 60 who regularly contributed through the envelope system; now there are only 24. The Macedonian movement makes heavy drains upon many of them. Taxes are levied upon them and they dare not refuse to pay them. Mr. Popoff frankly told me this, and said that he himself had to pay a levy of ~~XXX~~ 100 francs. So you can see that there is reason for their appeal for outside help, and if there is any way in which that help can be given them we shall be very glad indeed. Personally we expect to contribute as much as we can.

We have received a letter from the Bulgarian Preachers' Brotherhood giving us in brief some of the decisions and results of their conference last summer. The spirit of the letter is cordial and brotherly and we have acknowledged it in the same spirit. From it it appears that the proposed conference between native preachers and missionaries, which has been in the minds of some of the members of the mission for some time past, is more than ever to be desired, and we have expressed to the preachers the hope that it may be accomplished. ~~THEXXXXX~~ If you could be present at such a gathering it would be the very best thing possible. Can it not be managed?

Since I began this letter yours of the 29th ult. has come. We are very glad indeed to hear of the appointment of Miss Fröhlich. Knowing her as we do we shall give her a warm welcome to our mission circle and we have already extended hearty congratulations to Mr. Haskell for having won such an efficient and valuable help-meet.

Thanking you for you kind words in connection with my new duties, and with the warmest Christian greetings from all in the station, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

L. F. Ostrander.

Samokov, Aug. 13, 1904.

Dear Dr. Haskell,

Dr. Clarke stated in a recent station meeting that he has written to you about a certain matter. If what he wrote to you corresponds with the written statement that he read at our meeting, then I think that there ought to be a few words of explanation from some one else. So I want to write to you briefly this morning.

For some years past the native friends have expressed the decided opinion that Dr. Clarke ought not to continue to teach in the school, and during the past year it was felt by some of the members of this station, and especially by Mr. Thomson as director, that this opinion is well founded. At the annual meeting of the mission Mr. Thomson in discussuing the supply of the field said in the presence of Mr. and Mrs. Clarke and of Dr. and Mrs. Marsh, that it was thought best that Dr. C. should not continue to teach another year. At the annual meeting of the Trustees Mr. Thomson had an interview with Dr. Marsh and told him plainly the opinion of the majority of this station. During the meeting a tentative program of the teaching force for next year was made out without Dr. C.'s name being mentioned. At the close of that session Dr. C. said that he had no doubt Mr. Gulumanoff after a year or two could teach geology and mineralogy as well as he himself, but that for the first year it would not be so. He also said that he wanted whatever was best for the school to be done, and Mr. Thomson says that he even stated that he was ready to retire from his class work if it was thought best for him to do so. Through the change in the directorship, it fell to me to make the final announcement to Dr. Clarke. Some two weeks afterwards the trustee meeting, Dr. C. asked me what arrangements I intended to make about his classes, and repeated his opinion about Mr. Gulumanoff's ability and his desire to have the best thing done. Turning over in my mind how I could best broach this delicate matter to Dr. Clarke, and acting on the supposition, because of his remarks to me, that he had had some intimation from the members of his family of the possibility of a change, it seemed to me the best way to act along the line of Dr. C.'s own suggestion, and so, about a month after the trustee meeting I told him that it is thought best that he should not teach next year and that Mr. Gulumanoff should take his subjects.

One or two things by way of explanation. I regret that I told Mr. Gulumanoff that he is to have these subjects before I spoke to Dr. Clarke, and I have expressed my regret to the station. The explanation is this. Mr. G. had learned somehow, I don't know how, of the possibility of the change, and early in the vacation asked me about it, saying he needed time for preparation if he was to take the subjects. I told him I could not tell him then because I had not arranged with Dr. C. nor had the final word been said among ourselves as to what I ought to tell him. After Dr. C. started on his tour to Pirdope I consulted with Mr. Thomson and Mr. Baird, and the opinion was that I should tell Dr. C. that we thought Mr. G. should take his classes. Shortly after this I

Special letter,
to be read only under conditions specified in the accompanying letter.
L.F.O.

Special letter,
to be read only under conditions specified in the accompanying letter.
L.F.O.

Rev. L. F. Ostrander
Sermon book, 3rd quarter
Oct 25 - 1904

met Mr. G. during Dr. C.'s absence, and he said that he might be going away and wanted very much to know our decision. I told him that I had not yet given our opinion to Dr. C., but that under the circumstances I would tell that he might expect to take geology and mineralogy next year. I told him strictly not to speak about it to any one until after I had seen Dr. Clarke. ~~What was my surprise and regret to find out during my interview with Dr. C. that on the very first day of his return Mr. G. had spoken to him in such a way as to let him know what I had told him.~~

The other thing is in regard to the keys for the cabinet. During our interview Dr. C. told me that Mr. G. had taken his mineralogy text book and catalogue, and I asked him if he had let him take the keys so that he might have access to the specimens for study. I did not realize at the time the extent of Dr. C.'s personal ownership of the collections, nor had I the slightest idea of intimating that he should turn over to Mr. Gulumanoff or the school his private property. My remark referred entirely to what I supposed was the school's collection.

I write you these things, Dr. Haskell, to assure you that if there has been suffering caused, it has not been intentional. On the other ~~XXXX~~ hand, we have tried to do things in the kindest manner possible. It seems we have failed in this, and this we heartily regret. I admit my own mistakes, and can only plead my lack of experience in my new position. We all of us have nothing but the kindliest feelings for Mr. Clarke, but it seemed to us that the decision that was taken had to be taken. No one can regret more than we do if the manner in which the affair was managed was not the best and kindest.

45

Rec'd JAN 6 1905

Samokov, Bulgaria,
Dec. 21, 1904.

Rev. James L. Barton, D. D.,
Boston, Mass.,

Ans'd FEB 15 1905

My dear Dr. Barton,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your official communications of Oct. 31st and Nov. 30th with the A. B. C. F. M. list of appropriations for 1905, all of which have been duly forwarded to the other stations of the Mission. So far as I have heard, the arrangement in regard to the Sofia Kindergarten building is satisfactory to Miss Clarke, but you or the officials of the Women's Board have doubtless had a communication directly from her on that point. We regret, of course, that there cannot be a larger appropriation for our general work, but we shall try earnestly, with God's blessing, to make the money that is at our disposal accomplish as much as possible.

I am also in receipt of your personal letter of Nov. 5th and wish to thank you for it. I believe that there is nothing in it, however, that calls for a direct answer except the matter of the time for holding the annual meeting of the Bulgarian Evangelical Society. The general practice is to have it during the week after the Eastern Church Easter, which this year falls on the 30th of April, new style. The meeting usually begins on Thursday and lasts over Sunday, and it has definitely been decided that next spring it will be held in Sofia. This being the case, it is also quite probable that our annual meeting will be held in the same place a week or ten days earlier, and that a special effort will be made to have all the missionaries and all the native workers who can possibly attend present at these gatherings. However, in regard to the time and place of our meeting, no definite decision has yet been taken. The last two meetings have been held in Bulgaria, and it is now naturally the turn of one of the Macedonian stations. Salonica, I believe, is ready to invite us, and Dr. House seems to be of the opinion that it is not absolutely necessary to have the two meetings at the same time and place, thinking that the necessary work could be done by a committee from the Mission. However, they are perfectly ready to fall in with the proposal if it shall seem wise. I am sure that if there is even the slightest prospect that you will be able to visit the Mission at that time, it would be unanimously decided that our meeting should be where the Society's meeting is to be, so that we all might have the benefit of fellowship and consultation and a full exchange of views and discussion. It would be a very desirable thing and a great benefit to us all, and to the work, if you could manage to come. I think it quite possible that a formal vote of the Mission, asking you to try to arrange to come, will soon be taken and sent for endorsement to the other European Missions of the Board. And we pray that the Lord will open up the way for the carrying out of such a plan.

Since I last wrote one of the most importantant things that have

aken place was a conference between a committee from the Bulgarian Preachers' Brotherhood and the missionaries in Bulgaria. It was held here the last week in November and was attended by Dr. Marsh and all the gentlemen missionaries residing in Samokov, while the Bulgarians were represented by pastors Setchanoff, Popoff and Furnajieff. The object of the conference was to discuss certain personal misunderstandings and grievances between missionaries and natives and to try to restore more cordial feelings. The spirit manifested throughout the discussions was cordial and brotherly, and I think the results will be decidedly beneficial. As the matter is not yet quite finished up, pending a communication from the pastors as to their view of the results of the conference, I think I will say nothing more about it today. If further developments warrant it I will of course inform you about them.

You doubtless have heard the good news from Monastir, which tells of the birth of a son to Mr. and Mrs. Clarke on the 21st of Nov. And very likely I do not need to tell you that Mr. Haskell was married on the 13th inst. We are very glad to welcome both these new additions to our missionary circle. Dr. and Mrs. Marsh are now in Philippopolis and I believe expect to remain until after the new year, when one or both will probably have to return to the Adrianople district. Dr. Haskell is also back in Phil. and is glad to resume his regular work in Bulgaria.

The native brethren are just now making special efforts in the way of evangelistic meetings in several places, and similar work is to be done in other places during the winter. Pastor Setchanoff cooperated with Pastor Popoff for nearly two weeks in Sofia. In spite of some unfavorable circumstances the meetings were well attended and quite successful. Miss Clarke writes that the sermons were strong, gospel preaching. Much personal work and house visitation was done. The spiritual life of the church was quickened and some were led to decide for Christ; but it is yet early to attempt to speak of permanent results. In Haskovo Pastors Furnajieff and Tsakoff worked together for two weeks. I have no details of the results there, but the meetings during the first week were so encouraging that it thought wise for Mr. F. to stay a week longer than he had at first intended. Pastor Setchanoff has come to us from Sofia, arriving last Friday for a week of meetings. The attendance is good, a gratifying number from the city coming in. There is a good degree of interest on the part of our students, also, especially in the Girls' School. We think that God will rejoice our hearts by permitting us to see spiritual fruit. And we are also thankful for the very helpful and encouraging conference that was held in Ichteman early in Nov.

You will be interested to know that the "Capture of Miss Stone" has been dramatized and is now being presented in Bulgarian theaters. The caste of characters, I am told, gives the real names of those who were the leaders in the affair. A travelling company is to present it in Samokov this evening, and Mr. Baird will probably attend, as he will be sure to hear something of interest, and possibly of importance.

I want to write you this week about our C. and T. I., but will not delay this letter for what I want to say. With the best of the season's greetings, Cordially yrs. L. F. Ostrander.

Samokov Dec. 31. 1904

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Rec'd FEB 17 1905

Samokov, Bulgaria,
Feb. 3, 1905.

Ans'd FEB 23 1905

Rev. James L. Barton, D. D.,
Boston, Mass.,

My dear Dr. Barton,

Since my last letter to you under date of Dec. 21, 1904, I have to acknowledge the receipt of two from you, the one bearing the date of Dec. 14, and the other Jan. 16, 1905. The official grant of Miss Malthie's furlough was duly communicated to her and to the other stations, as you doubtless already know from personal conservation with her. We hope that she may have a restful and helpful vacation. We rejoice with you in the coming of the new Home Secretary, and have no doubt that your labors together will be abundantly blessed of the Lord for the progress of His world-wide kingdom.

In regard to the request from Pastor Popoff for a grant of $1,000 for repairs to the church building in Sofia, I have not much to say just at present. The appeal for help came to the station a few days before our last Annual Meeting, when there was hardly time to include it in the estimates, even if there had been a request that we should do so. The appeal was quite indefinite, and was answered by us that we had no funds at our disposal which could be used for such a purpose and thought it extremely doubtful if we could get special help from America. The matter has not been brought to the attention of the Mission in any official way; but I shall now consult with the other members of our station, and either by circular vote or at the next Annual Meeting will have some decision taken upon it. The need of repairs is certainly great, and the Sofia church is as important a one as we have in the whole Mission. By referring to my letters of Aug. 3 and Oct. 15, 1904, you will see that I have mentioned the matter and urged help as strongly as I could personally. Pastor Popoff reports in connection with the annual statistics that they have already gathered 1188.56 francs for the purpose.

Now in regard to Rev. Mr. Pachijieff. As he is located in the Philippopolis field the gentlemen of that station are better able to give you the information that you desire than I am, and on the receipt of your letter I at once wrote to Dr. Haskell requesting him to write to you as fully as possibly, and I hope he has been able to do so. As every little helps, however, I shall send you whatever I know and have been able to gather about the case. As you probably know, Mr. Pachijieff is a graduate of Auburn. There are five of us Auburn men in Bulgaria and we have a circular among ourselves. I remember that some time ago Mr. P. wrote in one of his contributions to this letter that he was considering with great regret the possibility of his having to withdraw from the work because of his inability to live on his income as a worker; and I understand from a recent letter from Dr. Haskell that he has definitely informed their station that he must have a salary of £T84 from the Mission or leave the work, and Dr. H. adds that they can give him but £T42. So evidently his financial need is great. Bourgas, where he is located, is said to be one of the most

xpensive places in all Bulgaria for living. Mr. P. is married and has hree children. When he first went to Bourgas his support was provided lmost, if not entirely, by his classmates; but little by little the contributions from them have fallen off, and he has had to have help from the oard through the Mission, for some years at least. An idea of his work may be obtained from the tabular views of the last six or seven years. e began the work in Bourgas and has been the only regular worker that we ave had there. He is a good faithfull worker, especially strong as a astor, although it must in candor be said that as a speaker he does not ave the ability to attract and hold people by his preaching that some thers have. It seems to me that there can be no question about his being "workman worthy of his hire", and the only doubt that arises in my mind s, as to whether Bourgas is the best place for him to work, i. e. whether e would not be able to get more and better results in some other place. ut as to that I must leave others who know the field better than I do to peak. I should be very sorry indeed to see Mr. Pachijieff leave our work. ne our pastors from Macedonia, Mr. Sedloeff, now in Bulgaria and not able o return to Macedonia for political reasons, is practically out of the ervice as neither of our stations has means to employ him. It will not e at all surprising if another one of our workers who expects to be married in the summer will give up his place, as he says that he cannot live s a married man on the salary that he will receive jointly from the people and us. If Mr. Pachijieff's classmates can do something to help him o that he will not have to leave our work, or ~~exer~~ to give part of his ime to earning ~~other~~ means of support in other ways, I am sure the whole ission will be very grateful to them. I have suggested to another of our uburn men who is personally acquainted with these classmates and also knows ll about Mr. P.'s work in Bourgas that he should write to them and give hem his views of the matter, without, however, letting it be known that ny inquiry has come from the Board.

About a month ago we started here in Samokov a formal invitation nd urgent request for a deputation to our Mission and the other Missions n Europe, such deputation to consist of yourself and such other persons s might be possible and desirable to have come. This paper was to be sent o the Austrian and Spanish Missions for their endorsement and signature fter it had gone the rounds of the other stations of our Mission. I hope hat it has reached you, and that it will be possible to comply with the equest. In addition to the important matters already mentioned in our etters which will have to be considered, it now looks as if very vital decisions in connection with the future of our schools here in Samokov will ave to be taken at our coming Annual Meeting, and it would be very satisfactory and helpful if you could be here and learn from personal observation and inquiry just how matters stand.

I am glad that from letters and reports which others have sent you ou know something of the special meetings and work that have been carried on n various places this winter. The meetings in Sofia were helpful even if ot remarkably succesful; while from all reports, the very successful ones eld in Haskovo, concerning which you have Pastor Furnajieff's

reports, are being followed by permanent results of great value. The ones held here by Mr. Setchanoff were simply a revelation to us. The attendance and the interest shown surpassed our highest expectations. After the first two or three services the church was crowded every night, and extra seats had to be brought in. Orthodox, Jews and Turks as well as our own Protestant adherents came regularly to listen to plain, forceful preaching of gospel truth. Many of the attendants were from a class of people who had rarely, if ever, come to our services before. The meetings became quite the talk of the city, and created so much interest that they provoked opposition. Some of the teachers in the national school have used their influence to prevent their students from attending, and orders have been given to soldiers and under officers that they are not to attend. Since Mr. Setchanoff's departure we have tried the experiment of holding evening preaching services twice a week, on Wednesday and Sunday evenings, and it is proving decidedly successful. The attendance continues to be large, many more outside our community coming in than have ever done for our morning services. Of course it is too early yet to speak positively of results. There have been conversions in both schools, with hearty consecration to Christ, and there are others from the city who seem to have found the way of life. We are trying to follow up the impressions made, and feel thankful to God for what he has permitted us to see, and are strengthened by it. From Philippopolis we learn that Mr. Setchanoff has just returned from holding a series of very encouraging meetings in the city of Stanimaka. It seems as if the people were now ready in an unusual degree to listen to the gospel. God grant that the presentation of it may be so used by the Holy Spirit that many may be born into the kingdom of God.

As to the movements of the missionaries, I can report the arrival in Samokov of Miss Haskell, and the assumption by her of Miss Maltbie's duties. Dr. Clarke had a dangerous experience in a terrible snowstorm on the 2nd of Jan., near Samokov, but was mercifully delivered and is none the worse for it. He and Mr. Holway XXXXXtoured to Ichteman and Pirdope during the Christmas holidays and report fairly encouraging experiences. Mr. Thomson at present is in Sofia on business connected with the schools, but on Sunday expects to be in Kustendil, where he will visit Mr. Furnajieff. On Sunday I expect to preach in Banya. Dr. Marsh is again in the Adrianople region. Concerning the Macedonian brethren I have nothing to annonnce except the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Haskell, which you doubtless know already.

Politically there is not much to say. Things are quiet with us, but the conditions in Macedonia are far from satisfactory. Refugees occasionally come across and they report that things are fast returning to the state they were in a year and a half or two years ago. Let us hope and pray that we may escape a repetition of the troubles.

I have been requested to ask why there are not more frequent reports from our Mission in the Missionary Herald. Only rarely is an extract from anything we send to be found in it. Is it because what we send is not interesting, or not well written up? Let is know, please, if the fault is in us, and we will try to do better. With hearty greetings, I remain,

Cordially yours, L. F. Ostrander.

Translation.

Feb. 3 1895

Feb. 4-1905

Rec'd FEB 17 1905
Ans'd FEB 23 1905

47

The American Board Schools at Samokov.

My dear Dr. Barton,

Some two years ago after the annual meeting of the Bulgarian Evangelical Society at which our schools were quite fully discussed, and after a personal conversation with Dr. House, I had some thought of writing a letter to you setting forth my impressions, as a new comer to the Mission, of our schools and their needs. But fearing that my information might not be complete and thorough enough and therefore my views not well founded, I refrained from doing so. However, as my opinions have not been changed since that time, but rather intensified, and especially since I assumed the duties of the principalship of the C. and T. I., I now feel that I ought to write such a letter, and the more so as it seems to me that the schools are now face to face with a very grave crisis. At the very beginning let me state that in all that I shall write there is not one word of criticism or faultfinding. I fully realize the great good that these schools have done, and also the longings and efforts of all interested in them to improve them. To me the great wonder is that so much has been accomplished with so small funds. My purpose in writing is to set forth the present conditions and needs with the hope that in some way or other it may be possible for those improvements to be made which shall enable these institutions to continue their good work.

I think most Americans have the idea that American institutions of learning in foreign countries are leaders in education, equaling, if not surpassing, other institutions of a similar kind which are to be found in the countries in which they are located. This is especially true of missionary countries. I know that I had this idea, based largely on experiences and observations in the Levant. This, unfortunately, cannot be said today of the American institutions in Bulgaria. In order that you may the better understand what I mean by this let me briefly sketch the development of Bulgaria along educational lines during the last quarter of a century.

The Bulgarians have always set a high value upon education. Even during the centuries of Turkish oppression they did not entirely lose their schools. There were young men who were capable of taking advantage of such an institution as Robert College, and eagerly did so. As soon as an independent government was established special attention was given to the development of a national system of education. This work has been in the hands of a Ministry of Education, and it has been done in such a manner that today Bulgaria stands at the head of all the Balkan states in this respect and far surpasses Russia in the advantages it gives for education. There is hardly a village that does not have at least an elementary school, while the towns and cities have institutions that correspond to our American high schools and certain features of our colleges. But although Bulgarians are ready to acknowledge their indebtedness to Robert College in furnishing them with so many young men ready to take up the work of the newly organized government, when it came to developing their own system of education, it was not to Robert College and the American System that they looked for their model, but to France and Germany. The result is an adapt-

ation of the systems of those countries, and especially of the German gymnasium. There are elementary schools which require four years for their course; then follows the gymnasium, with a seven years' course, and with two departments, a scientific and classical. Full gymnasia are found only in the largest cities, but the smaller ones have schools with a certain number of classes on the gymnasium plan. For example, Samokov has a school of four classes, or years. Beyond the gymnasium is the university in Sofia with several departments. There are also a number of pedagogical or normal schools, the Theological Seminary of the Orthodox church and technical schools in several branches of industry. Earnest and effective steps have been taken to supply all these schools with teachers. In the beginning many young people were sent to Europe at government expense to study and were then given posts as principals and leading teachers while with the passing of the years their own schools have been doing more and more to raise up trained men. So you see that in Bulgaria we find ourselves in contact with a good and developing system of national, secular education. The question naturally arises, what need is there then of American institutions? I answer frankly and positively, that if education is simply giving and receiving secular training, there is no need whatever, and no excuse for our being here. Students can get what they want in that line in the national institutions better than we can give it to them. But if education includes moral and religious training, then there is great need. Unfortunately many of those in educational work, from the highest down, are indifferent and even hostile to religion and far from worthy examples in their lives. Religious instruction has been reduced to the lowest possible minimum in the national schools, and in many cases is taught by men who openly scoff at it. When it is remembered that there is practically no home training along these lines and that there is absolutely nothing to correspond to the work done in our Sunday Schools, the significance of the situation can easily be seen, and also the need of a system of education that will pay some attention to ~~the~~ these all important matters along with the secular ~~educa-tion~~ instruction. For this reason we believe that we have an excuse for being here.

Now what should be our policy under these circumstances? We may not like the plan of education as followed in the German gymnasium, but here it is. It is useless to think that the country will ever adopt the American system; it has gone to far along other lines. We have not a large enough constituency to maintain an independent school on the American plan; and even if we had it would hardly be desirable to do so, as it must be possible for students to pass from the national schools to ours and vice versa, when desirable ~~XX~~ or necessary. The only possible arrangement, it seems to me, is that the two courses must be to a great extent parallel. We may not like to have it so, but circumstances compel it. The history of our schools shows this. All the changes that have been made in recent years have had for their purpose to make them conform to the national program. Now is it not evident that under such circumstances if we are to be fair to our constituents, the Bulgarian Protestants, who send their children to us in order that they may profit from our religious and moral

training, we must give them as good a secular education as they can obtain in the national schools of the same class, i. e. the gymnasia? If we are to attract outsiders, who do not attach much importance to religious training, must we not be able to offer them at least as good advantages as they can get in their own institutions? Unfortunately we cannot at present do this, as I shall now attempt to show.

The national gymnasium, to which our schools correspond, has a course of seven years. We have only six years in our scientific course. The national schools handle some subjects which we do not touch at all, and to others give many more hours that we can possibly do.

Our equipment in the way of chemical and physical apparatus and aids in teaching is inferior to that of the best of their schools (except in geology and mineralogy) and is inadequate.

Many of our teachers do not have the education and training that they ought to have, and that is required for similar positions in the national schools. On this point I shall have something to say a little further on.

Most important of all in the eyes of the people of this country, but our schools are not recognized by the government. This means that our certificates and diplomas are of no official value in anything that is under government administration. The bureaucratic idea is very strong here, and a government position is generally considered the goal of education. No one can hold such a position without a certificate from a recognized institution. For example, a last year's graduate, of ours, was wanted by the teachers of the national school here in Samokov as an instructor in gymnastics, but the authorities would not appoint him because he holds only the diploma of our school. Students desiring to go from our schools to the seventh class of the gymnasia must pass examinations on all the material studied here. Those who go abroad and finish in some university, if they have not a diploma from some recognized gymnasium, when they return to Bulgaria must pass examinations on all the gymnasium material before they can take up the practice of any profession. To teach in elementary schools a person must have a diploma from a recognized gymnasium, even if the school is a private one. This threatens to be disastrous to our elementary mission schools. The teachers for these schools have been trained in our Girls' Boarding School, whose diploma is not recognized, and now we are informed by the government that our teachers must have recognized diplomas, or the schools will have to be closed or taught by Orthodox teachers.

Now what is the result of these disadvantages under which our schools are working? I speak now more for the C. and T. I. than for the G. B.S.

We do not have the esteem and confidence of the people the way we ought to have it. We are not able to attract the best class of students. Outside of our Protestant communities the majority of the boys who are sent to us are those who cannot go on in other schools in Bulgaria either because of mental weakness or wild behavior, and are given to us as a sort of a last hope for their reformation. It is the glory of the school that many such boys have been helped, and some of them saved; but such a class of students does not tend to raise the standard or efficiency of the school. But more significant still to me is the fact that many in our own communities, and especially the leaders, are not satisfied with the school and

riticize it severely. They send their sons here because it is the best hey can do. If they could afford to send them elsewhere where they would e free from the undesirable influences of the national schools they would o so. I fully believe that the sons of some of our Bulgarian pastors, ow growing up, will never be sent to us as students if their fathers can ossibly send them somewhere else, unless there are great improvements in ur school.

What is to be done? At our last annual meeting a vote was passed uthorizing the addition of a seventh class to our C. and T. I. as soon s the funds can be provided. Our native brethren have been strongly urg- ng us to try to get recognition from the government, claiming that the inistry is now favorable. With this in view our program has been revised, xtending the course to seven years and making it as nearly as possible arallel with the national program. Mr. Thomson has just submitted this rogram to the minister of education and had an interview with him. The esult of this interview is that even our revised program cannot possibly e recognized by the government as it now stands, but must be made to con- orm, practically in every particular, with the program of the government. his involves such changes in the amount and character of the instruct- on to be given, and would mean such a large increase in the teaching force f the school that the whole matter must now be referred to the mission. ut the program is not the only or the most serious difficulty. We will ot know where to look for qualified teachers if we are to come up to the overnment requirements and get recognition. All teachers in gymnasia must ave university training, and even theology is not counted university train- ng except when a man wants to teach theology. Our present teachers have ot this training, and at the present time we do not know where to find uch qualified Protestants. I underline the word Protestants because we eel that it is a sine qua non, if the school is to justify its existence, hat the bulk of our teachers must be men of strong evangelical spir- t, especially if we shall be obliged to reduce our religious instruction o one hour a week, in each class. It seems to me that we must plan at nce to put into force our revised seven year program, if not the full gov- ernment one, whether we get recognition or not. This will require the ad- lition of two more teachers to our force, and will so much the more increase the running expenses of the school. Then we must train up Protestant teach- ers for our schools, helping them, if necessary, to get the required educa- tion either in Sofia or abroad. This will require more funds, both for the course of study itself and afterwards in the way of salary to make it possi- ble for men with such education to become teachers with us. Unless these things are done I very much fear that our schools will grow less and less influential and effective, and will even die a lingering death, if in fact they are not closed by the government, something that is quite possible, as Protestant work is not looked upon with any friendly eye by many in high places. For these reasons I feel that we are facing an important crisis. I make no appeal, because the facts themselves do that. I have tried to present them fully, clearly and impartially, and I don't believe I am too pessimistic. I believe God has a future for these schools which can do so

uch, with proper equipment, for the evangelization of the Slavic peoples f the Balkan Peninsula, and possibly of the vast Russian Empire. Among hese people there ought to be at least one Evangelical institution of igher education for young men, fully equipped, fully manned and adequatea y supported. May the Lord show us how to work, and may he raise up ~~fr~~ riends for our help.

amokov, Bulgaria,
February 4, 1908.

L. F. Ostrander.

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y, Bulgaria,
February 4, 1908.

48

Samokov, Feb. 10, 1905.

My dear Dr. Barton,

I write these few lines simply to suggest that it might be better not to give out ~~my~~ recent statement about our schools for publication, if you have any thought of doing so. If, after publication, it could be read only in America, there would be no objection to that; but I do not believe it is desirable that such a statement should be public property here in Bulgaria. You will know best how to use the information which it puts at your disposal.

Mr. Thomson returned last evening from Sofia via Kustendil, where he had a most interesting and satisfactory visit. All well here. Cordially yrs.

L. F. Ostrander.

REC'D FEB 27 1905
ANS'D MAR 17 1905

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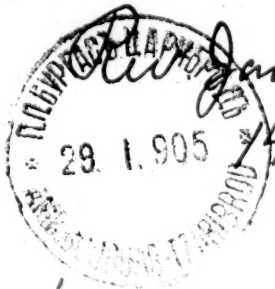

Rev. James L. Barton, D. D.,
14 Beacon St.
Boston,
Mass.
U. S. A.

Америка.

На тази страница се пише само адресътъ. — Côté réservé exclusivement à l'adresse.

Ans'd MAR 25 1905 49

Samokov, Bulgaria.
March 11, 1905.

Rev. James L. Barton,
Boston, Mass.,

Ans'd MAR 5 1905

My dear Dr. Barton,

I am in receipt of your letters of the 16th and 24th ultimate, and in acknowledging them can also inform you that copies have been forwarded to the other stations of the mission. We all greatly rejoice in the donation to our Industrial Department, and offer our sincerest thanks to our unknown benefactor. May God's rich blessing rest upon the giver as well as upon the gift in the use that shall be made of it. I shall try to enclose a few words of thanks for you to forward to this friend. Mr. Thomson is already making his plans to use a part of the share that falls to the printing office in the purchase of new type. But the larger share of the money will go to the wood working department, as it has much the greater need.

We sincerely hope that you will be successful in your efforts for an endowment for the school, and it greatly encourages us to know that you are working so earnestly along that line and are so sanguine of ultimate success. The need is certainly imperative and it is gratifying to know that you and the other members of the Board who are specially interested in our mission understand and appreciated the situation in educational matters. We must all work and pray for the realization of the necessary improvements. And now let me try to answer as well as I can the questions which you propounded in your second letter. There is much to be said on both sides in regard to a change of location for our C. and T. I. There is no denying that Samokov is less desirable now as an educational center than it was 25 years ago. It is a city that is deteriorating very fast and it is decidedly provincial and difficult of access. This confines the immediate influence of the school and its teaching force practically to the school itself and the city, and there can be no doubt that there are many places which would give a much more satisfactory reception to that influence and would be more adapted to spreading it than is true of Samokov. On the other hand, we must consider the cost of maintaining a school, especially one in which there are boarders, and in this respect up to this time Samokov has been favorable. We cannot tell how long this will continue, for the cost of living has increased tremendously during the past year or two. Even fuel, which was one of the strongest recommendations for Samokov because of its cheapness, has gone up 50% within a year. But Samokov is a healthy place, and it is also centrally located when we keep in mind the number of students that come to us from Macedonia. I do not consider a change of location imperative, although in some ways it would be desirable.

In regard to new buildings, I would say that if the school is to enlarge its course with more classes and more subjects, and if it is going to grow in numbers, there will be need of more accommodations. With the number of boarders we have had this year all our dormitory space has been occupied and it was a problem what we would do with other pupils if

they should come. The maximum number of boarders this year has been 55. Then we shall need new class rooms, and especially a properly arranged chemical laboratory. The room we have for physics does very well, but our equipment and apparatus is miserably inadequate. Our teacher tells me that he is often ashamed to try to make experiments before his classes because of the wretched condition of the antiquated machines, and we have not even a globe for our teacher in geography. Yes, we could make good use of another building, and when the enlargement comes it will be absolutely necessary. We have a place here on the compound where I think we could put up a suitable building.

I don't fully understand what you mean by your request to know "what ought to be the income of the school from outside fees in order to give it a fair standing before the government." If you mean by this what income ought to be expected simply from what the students pay in in the way of tuition and board, I do not think that that enters very much into the consideration of the government. Mr. Thomson tells me that so far as he knows that matter has never been touched upon, and so I cannot give any answer to it. I think the government concerns itself more with the subject matter taught and the manner of teaching it.

We are sorry that we have been slack in the matter of reporting about our work, and will try to do better. I must say, however, that several times things have been sent on from which it was fully expected that at least extracts would have been made, but they have never appeared.

We hope that the joint invitation from the European Missions for a deputation has by this time reached you, and that you will be able to arrange to come. We have not yet taken definite action in regard to our annual meeting, having been waiting for some word from you, if possible, but we cannot now delay any longer, and I suppose a vote will be started in a few days.

Dr. Marsh has been back from the Adrianople region about a week and just at present is in Sofia, helping Miss Clarke to get her kindergarten building started. He expects to come here next week for a meeting of the Trustees of our schools. Dr. Clarke has gone to Dubnitsa for Sunday, and this afternoon I expect to go to Banya to preach there tomorrow.

Our special meetings keep up in an encouraging manner, with good attendances, and I think that they are doing good in many ways. I enclose a little statement in regard to several things in connection with Christian work in the country which I think you will find of general interest.

I hope in a few days to be able to send you the annual tabular view for our mission and the more detailed report of Samokov station. Some of the stations have not yet sent me their reports.

With warmest Christian greetings, I remain,

Cordially yours,

L. F. Ostrander.

Samuel R. Calhoun Nov. 11, 1895.

Rec'd MAR 25 1905

Samokov, Bulgaria,

March 11, 1905.

Ans'd MAR 5 1905

To the Unknown Benefactor

Of the Collegiate and Theological Institute,

Dear Friend,

I want to send you just a few lines through Dr. Barton to express to you in the name of our Mission and of the Trustees of our Institute our hearty and grateful appreciation of your generous gift for the benefit of the Industrial Department of our school. It is our prayer that we may be divinely guided in the use we make of this money, and that God's blessing may rest upon the donor as well as upon those whom his gift will benefit. Plans have already been made for the use of part of the money for the purchase of new type and other equipment for our printing establishment, and another part of the money will be used for the improvement of our carpentry and wood working shop. Later on I shall be glad to try to send you a fuller description of our industrial department and to furnish you with some samples of the work done in it. But today I can simply write these few words of grateful acknowledgemnet of your interest and generosity.

Hoping that sometime we may know you more personally and intimately, I remain, with every good wish,

Sincerely yours,

L. F. Ostrander.

Principal.

Received Mar. 14, 1903

European Turkey Mission

REC'D MAR 25 1905

ANS'D MAR 5 1905

Encouraging Symtems in the Present Conditions in Bulgaria.

Among the XXXXXXXXX indications that the evangelical spirit is spreading and is beginning to make itself felt among the Bulgarian nation, may be mentioned the following:-

There seems to be a readiness in many parts of the country to listen to the preaching of simple gospel truth. Special meetings have been held in various places and the results have been surprising and gratifying. In Samokov the church has been filled to overflowing time and time again, and people have come who never before entered the building. The interest in the meetings, XXX held of late twice a week, has continued since before Christmas. The same is true of Haskovo, Stanimaka and other towns.

Certain members of the Orthodox church in Sofia, under the leadership of one of their priests, have been holding XXXXXXX meetings for special prayer and devotions. These are reported to be earnest, spiritual and helpful. It is said that such meetings are held in the Orthodox Theological Seminary among the students.

An Orthodox Religious Brotherhood has been organized in Sofia for actively carrying on religious work. One branch of this work is the publication of religious tracts. The tone of these pamphlets is thoroughly spiritual and many of them, at least, are helpful and uplifting.

The Archimandrate of Stara Zagora, the assistant of the Bishop, has written and published a little pamphlet called "Great Reward". It is a condemnation of the Bulgarians' neglect of the gospel, and as earnest a plea for the constant study of it in the home XX and the following of its precepts in every day life as anyone could utter.

Quite a strong temperance movement is going on in Orthodox circles in several places. In a village between Samokov and Sofia the women of the place have waged war on the saloon keepers for several years, and recently under the lead of the local teachers, have carried the matter to the ministry in Sofia, and have secured an order for the closing of all the saloons. They have been closed and the saloon keepers driven out of business in that place. The same is true of two or three ~~of village~~ other villages in the same region.

There is a woman in Samokov who has seen visions and dreamed dreams. She has interpretted these things to mean that she must try to get the priests to give the people more spiritual food and be better spiritual leaders in every way. They have refused to listen to her seriously, so she has begun herself to try to teach the women of the city. Many gathered to hear her, until at last she was forbidden to use the school house, which was at first placed at her disposal. Now a petition has been prepared, signed by at least 130 persons, that some place be given them where they can hold their meetings. These people are loyal to the Orthodox church, but feel that there must be improvement in the priesthood. Just at present there is a most encouraging demand here in Samokov for some of our religious tracts.

For all of these things we take heart and give thanks. Pray for us.

Samokov, March 11, 1905. L. F. Ostrander.

Samokov. Bulgaria. Nov. 11. 1905.

APR 7 1905

Samokov, Bulgaria,
March 17, 1905.

MAY 17 1905

Boston, Mass.,

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D., Dear Dr. Barton,

Your recent letter to Mr. Holway was redeived yesterday morning and we were all surprised and disappointed to learn that the vote extending an invitation for a deputation to the European Missions of the American Board had not yet reached you. We cannot understand this except on the supposition that in some way or other the vote has miscarried and so has failed to reach its proper destination in your office. Knowing as we do the hearty approval that the other Missions gave to the proposal when it was brought to their attention by Mr. Holway last spring and summer, and also that the other stations of our Mission cordially endorse the idea, we of the Samokov station decided last night to take upon ourselves the responsibility of sending you the telegram which I despatched this morning, and which reads, "Vote astray. Three missions want visit. Come. Ostrander". We do this because we feel that it would be very regretable to lose the proposed visit, to which we have been looking forward so eagerly, simply because the formal invitation or appeal from the Missions has failed to arrive in Boston. There can be no doubt about the desire to have the deputation come, and we hope that the telegram will give you sufficient authorization to present the matter to the Prudential Committee and to ask that the deputation be appointed. In a previous letter I gave you the substance of the vote, or invitation, so I think you must be fully informed as to its purpose and scope. Since I sent it on its rounds about New Year's time I have not heard a word from it, although I have lately sent out some questions in order to try and trace it. I only hope that it has reached you before you receive my telegram and this letter.

A week ago today Samokov station started a circular vote proposing definitely that Annual Meeting be held this year in Sofia and begin on Saturday evening, April 22. Returns from this are not yet in. But whether the meeting will be held in Sofia or in Macedonia, it is absolutely necessary that it should be held about the time mentioned, as we have questions that must be decided before the end of the present school year.

Your letter of the 4th inst concerning Mr. Rockefeller's gifts and the desires of the Prudential Committee regarding appeals to him for help has been received and copies of it will be forwarded to the other stations of our Mission. I am sure that all will be perfectly ready to respect these wishes of the Committee.

Dr. Clarke left yesterday morning to take up his residence in Sofia. We shall miss him greatly here in Samokov. Both the Trustees and the Teachers of the C. and T. I. passed appreciative minutes of his long and valuable services in the school, and the native friends gave a little reception in his honor last Tuesday evening. We hope that he will still have many years of useful service for the Master here in Bulgaria.

With cordial Christian greetings, I remain,

Sincerely yours, L. F. Ostrander.

Samokov. Mar. 17. 1905.

Rec'd JUN 2 1905

Samokov,

May 20, 1905.

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.,

Boston, Mass.,

JUN 7 1905

Dear Dr. Barton,

Please pardon the delay in getting off this bunch of documents. It seemed the right thing for me to go to Constantinople for the missionaries' conference, and I had to start from Sofia the day after the meeting adjourned, so could not get the papers in shape. Since my return last Tuesday, the 16th, the school duties that I found awaiting me, and that have come up have prevented me from getting

the documents off before today.

I think everything that I am responsible for is there. The report of Salonica Station and the tabular views of all the Stations except Samokov have been forwarded directly to you. I trust that you will find everything in good and satisfactory shape.

Next week I hope to write again to reply more at length to your favor of Apr. 6th, and to give you the desired information about the C. and T. I. Meanwhile, as this can be regarded as a private letter, I take advantage of the opportunity to state that my correspondence with you will

be even more enjoyable in the future than heretofore now that I know that you belong to our Delta Upsilon. My Father and his three sons are all members, and I, Hamilton '94, send you cordial greetings in this newly discovered relationship. I am endebted to Rev. Thorton B. Penfield, who was recently here for a short time, for calling my attention to your membership, and I feel rather ashamed that I did not know it before.

All is well here, tho' both Mrs. Ostrander and Mrs. Holway are away temporarily for various reasons.

Fraternally yours,

L. F. Ostrander.

L. F. Alstrander -

Samokov - Bul. May 20 - 1905.

Rec'd NOV -3 1905

53

Samokov, Oct. 19, 1905.

Rev. James L. Barton, D. D.,
Boston, Mass.,

Ans'd DEC 5 1905

My dear Dr. Barton,

Now that you are back from the Annual Meeting of the Board and are resuming work along the usual lines, you will be ready to hear once more from your correspondents in the various missions and so gather material for the work of the winter campaign. I hope the other secretaries are more faithful correspondents than I am, for I feel ashamed of the meager amount of news that I furnish you and of the one sided character that our correspondence has had during the last few months.

Replying to your letter of August 29th, let me assure you that we are all delighted to know that a deputation to our mission has been authorized and that we hope that it will not have to wait too long for its turn. It would be very desirable indeed if you could manage to get in the visit during this school year. I have requested an expression of opinion from the other stations of the mission in regard to the best time for the visit, and have had replies from two of them, Salonica and Monastir, on the subject. Mr. Haskell writes that he and Dr. House think that the best time would be any time between Oct. 15 and May 15, and the very best time for Macedonia is from Oct. 15 to Dec. 15 or from March 15 to May 15. Mr. Clarke writes from Monastir: "The best time according to us would be to attend the annual meeting of the mission (to be held in Macedonia) and visit the stations afterwards, i. e. supposing the Annual Meeting to be held in the spring about Easter time." I have had no expression of opinion from Philippopolis station. Probably they have written directly to you. The members of our station also think that the spring, in connection with the Annual Meeting of the mission, would be the best time to come. All portions of the field at that season are quite easily accessible, and it would be comparatively free from certain unpleasant features connected with touring in warmer weather, which I don't need to describe to you, seeing your are personally acquainted with the life of these eastern lands. At that season, too, the work would be in a normal state and in full swing and so could be seen to the best advantage for the information of the deputation. How glad we should be to hear from you before long that you are planning to be with us at our next Annual Meeting to help us in the discussion and settlement of the various problems that come up for our decision, and to know from personal information gathered on the spot about our work, opportunities and needs.

In one of your recent letters you refer to some correspondence that I have had with Mr. James C. Clarke, of Concord Junction, relative to his coming out here to reorganize and modernize our wood-work department. Since that correspondence the Trustees have voted to invite Mr. Clarke to come, offering him $500 for five months' time, which is the sum he would have to pay his substitute if he got a leave of absence. It is expected that nearly a month of this time will be used in traveling out here and that he will put in four solid months of work with us here. This vote was not unanimous and there is quite a strong feeling on the part of several in the mission that it would not be a practical move nor be justified by the results, not because of any lack of qualification on Mr. Clarke's part, but because of the conditions out here and the limitations under which the work of the carpentry shop must be carried on. I have frankly written this to Mr. Clarke, assuring him at the same time that I personally very much desire to see him come and think there

Thank

is great need of his coming; but as some of his own relatives have written in a not very encouraging manner about his coming, it will not be at all strange if he does not accept our proposition. His wife and child are now in Sofia with the Clarkes there.

Our schools have opened auspiciously with a full attendance and in pretty good shape for the work of the year. The Girls' School, as usual, is full to overflowing and has absorbed even more accommodations in adjoining buildings than in former years. The C. and T. I. has a larger attendance than last year, especially in the boarding department, and we too have had to rack our brains and make special arrangements to provide for all our boarders. We have had as yet absolutely no difficulty from the government in regard to religious instruction anf church attendance, and in fact have heard nothing further about that matter since the first intimation was sent to us. We think that we are ready for it if it does come up. We have prepared a declaration which we require all Orthodox parents or guardians to sign, stating that they have confidence in us, and that they leave to us the training of their children, while they are under our care, including religious instruction and church attendance. So far I know, only one case in which an Orthodox parent has refused to sign this declaration. In the Boys' School we have more Orthodox students than last year, and expect still others to come, and I am sure that there has been no diminution in the Girls' School. We naturally feel hampered by the debt that is resting on our school, and so were not able to engage all the teaching help that we really ought to have this year. For instance, we ought to have a man to take charge of our expanding French course. We could not afford it this year, so the work had to be divided between Mrs. Baird and me, an arrangement which is by no means the most satisfactory one. As we contemplate the expansion which is necessary if we carry out the action of the last Annual Meeting we cannot but regard the future with a good deal of anxiety from a financial point of view. Upon this subject I shall have to write to you more fully a little later on.

It is somewhat late now to speak of summer doings, but yet I may mention that Mrs. Ostrander and I spent a month during the summer with relatives of mine in Constantinople. It was pleasant to be back in old haunts and among old friends, and we had the opportunity to profit from several forms of recreation which we do not get up here at all. Tennis was one of them, and I was gratified to find that I have not entirely forgotten how to play. One morning I played a set with the young man who at present holds the championship of the Ottoman Empire, and had the good fortune to beat him 6-5. Samokov had its usual number of summer visitors among us, and is really getting quite a reputation as a summer resort.

Mrs. Maltby, who had charge of the music in the Girls' School last year, left the latter part of September and expects to return to America via India and Japan, where she wants to see missionary relatives add missionary work. She did a good work here, and we regret that her health did not permit her to remain. The former incumbent of the position, Mrs. Dimchevski, is not well enough to resume her duties with us and has taken up her residence in Sofia. The new teacher, a young lady by the name of Zolliker, from Switzerland, has just arrived.

With best regards from all, and with sympathy for you and the other officers of the Board in the anxiety that the debt of the Board must cause you, I remain,

Fraternally yours,

L. F. Ostrander.

Samuelson: Sup. Dec. 19-1905.

Rec'd DEC 2 1905

Samokov, Bulgaria,
Nov. 15, 1905.

Ans'd DEC 4 1905

Rev. James L. Barton, D. D.,
Boston, Mass.,

My dear Dr. Barton,

About a month ago the local trustees of the C. and T. I. held a session, the ladies of the station being present in consultation, at wh. the present condition of the school and its future porspects were carefully canvassed. As a result of this meeting I was instructed to draw up a letter to the other stations of the mission and to the Bulgarian trustees, giving our views and asking their advice. This having been done, and the replies received, it now seems best to lay the matter before you, giving the substance of the letter and the replies, and asking your guidance in deciding what should be done next.

"The new school year of the C. and T. I. opened on the 21 of Sept. The attendance is large. 71 have been enrolled, of whom 64 are boarders. Last year the total enrolled was 65, of whom 57 were boarders. The increase in the number of boarders has taxed our capacities to the utmost and at present we have no place at all for any more students in the boarding department. Thus far, on the whole, they are paying their dues well, and it is estimated that there may be an income this year from what the students pay in over and above the cost of board, of about $45 instead of a deficit, as last year, which was about $80.

In accordance with the vote of the last Annual Meeting of the mission, there have been changes made in the program so that the studies of the first four classes are practically the same as those in the National schools. There has been no addition to the teaching force; in fact, it is two less than last year, Dr. Clarke and Mr. Furnajieff, who each had a few hours of teaching work, doing no teaching this year. The increase in the amount of teaching required by the rearranged program has been provided for temporarily by some of the former teachers and the missionaries (whose time is given without any direct additional cost to the school) taking more work. We greatly needed a French teacher to take charge of all the work in that language, and we even started inquiries about getting one from Switzerland, but the financial condition of the school at the last semi-annual statement proved to be such that that expense was entirely out of the question. This subject has been provided for by getting a Jewish teacher from the city for the highest class, by Mrs. Baird's doubling her hours and by my taking 3 hours a week more of teaching work, starting the first two classes together in French, a combination which will be possible only this year. Such an arrangement is not at all satisfactory, but it was the best we could do.

In spite of such economical arrangements and the fact that the students are paying well, it is estimated that at the end of the calendar year, 1905, the school will be in debt about $660, while at the end of the school year, next July, the endebtedness will probably be about $450. This in brief is the statement of our income and expenditure: All or nearly all that is ~~XXXX~~ received from the students is expended for the expenses of the boarding department and so brings in no income for the school. The amount received from the Board for 1905 is about $2145, and this is practically our only income. For the same year, 1905, teachers salaries amount to $1770. This leaves $375 for running expenses, heating, lighting, service and incidentals. ~~Or~~

~~XXXXXXX~~. These expenses for the last two years have amounted to about $550, from which it is evident that the school will fall behind $175 this year and will add that much to the debt that it has gradually been accummulating. And in this connection I may say that there is no encouraging prospect that the running expenses can become any less in the near future.

If the plan of having five classes parallel to the National schools is carried out next year, then we must increase the work of our paid teaching force by about 30 hours a week if we have a teacher for French. This means the full time of an extra teacher and half the time of still another. If we get a teacher properly qualified to take all the French work we must expect to pay well for him; and so we must count on an increase of teachers' salaries of at least $650, even if we do not yield to the insistent demands of our present teachers for higher wages.

If we take the ground that we have no moral right continually to run the school into debt, it is very evident that we can neither expand nor even go on as now with the present income of the school. For the next school year our resources, at the very lowest, should be $850 larger than they are at present, to say nothing of the debt now on hand. The American Board is heavily in debt, and our secretary has positively assured us that we can expect no increase in the appropriations for our mission work for 1906. Such being the case, the first thing we would ask of you is this:

Where are we to find the necessary funds which the maintainance and development of our school demands? How shall we go about the work of raising these funds?

If you feel that you cannot satisfactorily answer the above questions, we would like an expression of opinion as to which one of the three following policies you would prefer:

1. Gradually to close the school altogether, next year not having any first class, and so on until at the end of six years we would have carried through the students now in attendance (as we seem morally bound to do) but with no new students entering except such as could enter the classes we would have.

2. To cut down the course of study, making the school, let us say, a five class one, with program parallel to the National schools. This could possibly be done with our present resources.

3. To abandon the Scientific Course entirely and try to develop the Theological Department into a satisfactory training school for native workers."

The gist of the replies received in answer to this letter may be briefly stated as follows:

1. We cannot honorably go on running the school in debt.

2. It does not seem that the time has yet come to make any one of the radical changes proposed; though in the eventuality of one having to be made No. 2 is the one most favored.

3. We must make a definite and vigourous effort to raise more funds for the school.

As to methods for accomplishing the third point various things have been suggested. One is that the Bulgarians should be urged to do more for the speedy raising of their share of the endowment fund. Another is that we should try to get more from the students by charging more for tuition. Still a third is that a strong special appeal be ~~made~~ prepared and permission asked

of the Prudential Committee to present it through Congregational and other papers and anywhere else where there is the slightest chance of any response. And lastly, that a deputation should be sent to England and America to try to raise funds through addresses and personal solicitation.

It is upon the last two points that we specially want your advice and cooperation. If the Prudential Committee will give us its sanction we will try to prepare the strongest possible appeal and give it publicity in America. Or if you are willing to prepare such an appeal from the material of this letter and other material you have on hand, we would be very thankful to have you do it. What we want is to get before the public with our particular needs and opportunities as an individual institution. We should also be very glad to know your opinion as to the practicability and advisibility of sending a deputation. If such a move is thought wise, who should our representatives be and what would be the best time and method for them? And in is this connection it has been urged that the school problem furnishes another strong plea for the speedy visit of the deputation. Here on the spot you can go to the bottom of the whole matter through questioning and personal interviews and observation in a way that is utterly impossible through correspondence. We feel that the time has come when we must have the opinion of outside authorities on the character, work ~~and~~ and future policy of this institution. And I think you can easily see the need of speedy action in this matter. We ought to know what we can expect as soon as possible, for the arrangements for expansion and the finding of competent teachers are things that require time and cannot be left to the last minute before the new school year begins. At the present time we are in no position to plan for enlargement or to make definite attempts to secure new teachers.

We still firmly believe that there is a place and work in Bulgaria for a school that stands ~~XXXXX~~ strongly for moral and religious training, provided it can commend itself in other respects. The crowded condition of the school this year shows that there are many who are ready to send their sons to us. Several outside of the Protestant community with whom I have talked, one of them a teacher in a National school, have expressed approval of the movement to make our school parallel with the National schools and have expressed the opinion that we will get many more students if that is done. I recently talked with an old man who for years has made it his business to travel about Bulgaria studying the life of the people and gathering information for literary purposes. He said that in his opinion the schools in Bulgaria had greatly fallen off in their moral influence, and were utterly demoralized. I asked him if he thought there was need of our school in the country, and he replied "Yes, great need." The following is taken from the Orthodox Bulgarian church paper, and is what a student in one of the National gymnasia handed in in place of his final examination in mathematics. "Nothing plus nothing is equal to nothing. In my soul I feel nothing. I came to school with a certain something, and this school in the course of seven years has taken away from me that thing. In exchange it has given me only a doubt which is pushing me into the abyss of despair. I went out from my father's cabin and took with me faith in God; but in the school they took it away from me and gave me-nothing. I go out from the door of the school with-nothing. Give me, oh, return to me at least that which I brought from home--return to me my faith in God." Our school tries to do all in its power to preserve and develop this faith in God and not to take it away and so drive young men into despair. -- With a prayer for God's special guidance as you read and ponder this letter, I remain -

Cordially yours,

L. F. Ostrander

Manchester Mar 15 1905

Rec'd DEC 2 1905

Ans'd DEC 4 1905

Samokov, Bulgaria,
Nov. 15, 1905.

Rev. James L. Barton, D. D.,
Boston, Mass.,

My dear Dr. Barton,

For once it is possible for me to write to you and say that there is no letter from you that has not been acknowledged. So I can proceed at once to give you the few items of news that come to my mind.

Last week the fall meeting of our conferences took place in Philipoppolis. It was a joint meeting of the two conferences such as is held regularly once every three years. Doubtless the members of Phil. Sta. will send you full accounts of the meetings, but even so a few words from me may not be amiss. The spiritual tone of the meetings seemed to me excellent, and there were many evidences of God's special guidance in the selection, preparation and presentations of the public addresses and sermons. Invitations were distributed throughout the city for each of the three evening services and the people responded by filling the church on each occasion, the audiences numbering 400 or more. Tuesday evening there were two addresses on "The Present Religious Movement or Awakening, and Our Attitude towards It"; Wednesday evening a sermon on "Almost a Christian" and Thurs. evening another sermon on "Following Christ a Personal Duty." Besides these Mr. Holway had a special service to try to bring some of the young people of the congregation to a definite decision for Christ. So you see the whole tone of the Conference was evangelistic and all that was said was listened to with the closest attention. The daily prayer meetings were spirited, earnest and helpful, taking their keynote from the evangelistic addresses and having as the burden of the prayers the out pouring of God's spirit on all workers, church members and churches. The farewell meeting, instead of finishing within an hour, continued nearly two hours, and even then all were not able to take part who desired to do so. An interesting person in these meetings was one who, on the morning that the conference began, because of spiritual dissatisfaction, had discarded his priest's robes and cut off his beard and hair in Sofia, and then, without knowing why, had started for Philippopolis. On the train he met some of the delegates to the conference, had spiritual conversation with them and learned about the meetings. He attended them all regularly, and at the last meeting spoke and prayed very simply but earnestly, giving his experiences and hopes. Many were moved to tears. He is a young man, and if he comes fully and positively into the light may prove a valuable worker for the evangelization of his people. Could you not make him and two other former priests who are in a similar position special objects of prayer both privately and in some of your meetings?

The business sessions of the conference did not seem to me to accomplish very much and were rather a disappointment, and some of the conversations that I had with some of the native pastors in regard to their difficulties and trials were not at all encouraging. On the one hand there is great encouragement to be found in this, that the people are so ready to listen to the preaching of the gospel, and even seem eager for it. On the other hand, it is by no means satisfactory that the Protestant organization makes so little progress towards self-support and self-extension. The problem of the support of our native pastor and preachers is a serious one, and I am very much afraid that with the means at our disposal we shall have to face the unpleasant necessity of cutting down the number of workers.

Perhaps in this way the Bulgarians themselves will be inspired to do more.

As you doubtless already know, Miss Malthie arrived in Samokov on Friday, Nov. 3rd, in good health and after a pleasant journey in company with the Tsilkas as far as Nish. She is gradually resuming the duties of the Directress of the G. B. S., and her coming is a great relief to Miss Haskell who found the burden of being the only American lady in connection with the administration of the school and of having a number of hours of teaching very heavy indeed.

I have received another letter from Mr. James Clarke in which he says that he feels he must refuse our invitation to come out and overhaul and reorganize our woodworking department, because of Mr. Baird's opposition to the proposal. I can see, however, that he would like very much to come and that he thinks he could do a good deal to help us. We have had another session to consider his letter of refusal and I am today sending him the results of it. Unfortunately Mr. Baird cannot be persuaded to change his views, and so if Mr. Clarke maintains the position he has taken we will not be able to have him with us. But I have pointed out that the feeling in Samokov is strong that the opposition of only one ought not to stand in the way of the will of the majority, and have assured Mr. Clarke that if he should come it is our opinion that Mr. Baird would not hinder him nor make it unpleasant for him, but would turn things over to him and give him a free hand. So I hope he may yet decide to come. One other thing I would like to mention to you which I did not care to speak of to Mr. C. In addition to other things Mr. Baird said that in view of the straightened financial condition of the school and the general work, it would look very strange to our native brethren for us to spend so much money on what might be considered a secondary matter or department. I admit that there is some force in this point, but still I think it could easily be explained to some of our leading workers that the money so used was given for a special kind of work and could be used for no other. I have no doubt that Mr. Clarke will consult with you again, and I am sure that you will advise him as you think wise and fit. If he decides to come we shall be very glad to feel that he does so on your advice and with your approval.

A letter recently received from Mr. William Clarke of Monastir tells of the safe arrival there of the Tsilkas, and that they are expecting soon to go on to Kortcha. It is to be hoped that they will meet with no serious hindrances and will be able successfully to renew their work there. I have no recent word of general interest from Salonica station.

I am going to prepare to send you along with this letter another statement about our school. I do so because I wish it to be of the nature of a special communication and of such a character that large parts of it could be used for publication if thought desirable. I know that you will give it thoughtful and prayerful attention and will take such action in regard to it as you shall think wisest and most likely to help.

Hoping that you are having as beautiful a fall as we are having here and that the new year of the Board's work is opening up encouragingly and hopefully, I remain, with all good wishes and Christian greetings,

Cordially yours,

L. F. Ostrander.

Samokov Bul.
Nov. 15-1905
Joint meeting of Conference

Rec'd MAR 5 1906

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Samokov, Bulgaria,
Feb. 14, 1906.

Ans'd FEB 14 1906

Rev. James L. Barton, D. D.,
Boston, Mass.,

My dear Dr. Barton,

I have a collection of five letters from you, ranging in date from Dec. 5, 1905 to Jan. 4, 1906, which have followed each other in rapid succession during the last two months. They have contained the appropriations of the three Boards which support the work of the mission and also the statement prepared by the Prudential Committee. All of these were at once copied and forwarded to the other stations of the mission. In reading over these letters once more I find that there are a few points that need comment or answering.

You express a desire for further information in regard to the relation of the government with the school and of the development of a matter that threatened to cause us some difficulty. I am happy to be able to report that there has been no further development whatever. We have not heard a word from the government on the subject since the first intimation was sent us last spring. There are some who are of the opinion that this regulation was adopted simply to please the Holy Synod, and that there was never any serious intention of carrying it out. Even if an attempt should be made to enforce it, we have the subscription of all Orthodox parents to the written declaration which we prepared, and in the face of that we do not see what they can do.

Mr. James Clarke, of Concord Junction, has written, as you doubtless know, definitely declining the offer of our Trustee to come out and reorganize the woodworking department, largely because he does not think it wise to ask for a leave of absence from his work in America just at present. We are sorry that we are not to have the benefit of his assistance, for we have great need along that line; but in the uncertainty as to the future policy and prosperity of the school perhaps it is just as well not to spend any money in that way at present. We expect that Mr. Clarke will be able to give us some good advice during the visit which he is planning to make here next summer.

One or two things in regard to the appropriations. You say, "I was compelled to cut down the estimate for Mr. Clarke's salary at Monastir which was put in at a sum in excess of the year before." The last part of this statement is not correct. The estimate for the Monastir salary was <u>not</u> raised, for that salary has been £T 210 for a number of years past. The estimates submitted in 1904 for 1905 assigned Mr. Holway to Monastir with a salary of £T210, while Mr. Clarke was located at Samokov on a salary of £T200. But, as you know, Mr. Holway was not able to go to Monastir and so Mr. Clarke was transferred there during the summer of 1904 and the matter of salary was adjusted between them. Last spring the estimate of Mr. Clarke's salary was made for 1906 on the Monastir basis which is £T210. I trust that you will bring this mistake to the attention of the Prudential Committee and if possible have the additional £T10 for Mr. Clarke's salary put to the credit of the mission. Mr. Holway's salary for 1906 is estimated at £T200, and not £T210 as in 1905, he now being on the Samokov basis, and not on that of Monastir.

In regard to the administration of the funds for the work in Kortcha, I think I wrote you last year that we as a mission know nothing of these funds not being used as called for in the estimates. Any explanation of this matter must come from the Monastir Station, and I have called their attention to it.

The statement from the Prudential Committee is a document which pre-

sents some very important and serious problems for our consideration and solution. I do not see how anything like a final answer to some of the points can be given until after our annual meeting, which it is now proposed to hold in Salonica, beginning April 13th. All the other station of the mission have a copy of this document, and possibly you have heard from some of the missionaries in regard to it. You may be sure that it will have careful consideration in our meeting. And in this connection let me say that we greatly regret that we are not to have the benefit and pleasure of the fellowship and advice of the deputation at that time; but we can see how, under the circumstances, it is impossible for you to come just now.

Some from the other stations have written directly to you in regard to the Albanian work, and in addition I can now give you the opinion of Monastir and Samokov stations. Monastir is decidedly of the opinion that more work ought to be done among the Albanians and will welcome such work if it can be provided for with funds outside of the amount now assigned to the general work of the mission, at the same time feeling that we could ill afford to assign the first new missionaries appointed to the mission to that work. This, in general, is the opinion of the Samokov station also. We feel that before such work is undertaken it should be on such a basis as to assure its continuance for a good period of years, and if there is any probability of its soon coming back upon the general funds of the Board we would hesitate about beginning it. There is great need of the work, but at the same time the work that the mission already has on hand is crippled for men and means, and needs reinforcement.

We have just been having a series of meetings here in Samokov under the leadership of Pastor Furnajieff, of Kustendil. They were not so remarkable in their attendance as those of last year, but they have been helpful and strengthening. Mr. Furnajieff preached Christ in a very attractive and forceful way, and the church was always well filled with a most attentive audience. Preaching services were held Sunday morning and evening, and Tuesday and Friday evenings. In addition to this, cottage prayermeetings were held three evenings in the week in various part of the city, in which much close, personal work was done. It is yet early to know the results, but one thing worthy of note is that a leading family in the city, outside of our community, was very much interested in the services and attended every one almost in a body. They even wanted to have one of the cottage prayermeetings. And through the pastoral work done by Mr. F. and Pastor Terzieff we hope that the condition of the church itself, and especially of some of its members, is much improved. We shall try to continue the extra preaching services and the interest in them.

I enclose the appeal for the C. and T. I. issued in the name of the local Trustees and endorsed by the Teachers' Body. We hope that the Prud. Com. will authorize its use in Congregational papers and circles. We are having it printed for use in non-Cong. circles and I shall send you a number of copies. We must push this matter, for the time is very, very short. I wish that you could have a conference with some of the business men of the Porter Church, of Brockton, which supports me, about the school, and that they might be allowed, if they so desire, to make the school a "special" for a time. I shall suggest such a confernce with you to them, although I shall not make any special appeal nor send them a copy of this one. I also wish that you would present this appeal, or authorize us to do so, to Dr. Henry Faville, of the 1st

Congregational Church, of LaCrosse, Wis. Dr. Faville has visited us here and is deeply interested in our work. More than that, he was Mrs. Ostrander's pastor and one of his leading men is ~~XXX~~ her uncle, Mr. John M. Holley. There are a number of men in that congregation who are in a position to be able to help us out, and who might be induced to give to such a "special."

You will notice that the appeal is as brief and condensed as possible, as we felt that we could not go into all the details. If you have need of further details in presenting the claims of the school, let me refer you to the article in the pamphlet on the "Higher Educational Institutions of the American Board", and to my letters of Feb. 3, 1905 and Nov. 15, 1905. The minutes of the annual meeting of 1905 also contain references to the school problem and some decisions in regard to it.

Please thank Dr. Strong for the marked copy of the Missionary Herald which he recently sent me; and not only for the copy, but also for giving our needs such a prominent place.

I am afraid that when this letter arrives you will be out West engaged in the campaign, and that after your return you will be so rushed with work that you will have but little time for this matter. Still I am confident that you will give it as careful and speedy attention as possible, for I know that you fully realize its importance. It is our constant prayer that God will show us all where and how to work in getting help for the school, and may His guidance and blessing be given you abundantly in your efforts to this end.

Trusting that the special campaign is meeting with abundant success, and that it will hold out great encouragement to you and to us all for the future of the work, and with Christian greetings from all in our station, I am,

Cordially yours,

L. F. Ostrander.

P. S. I am enclosing also copies of articles that I am sending to the Porter Church, thinking you will be interested in them. When you finish with them perhaps you might pass them on to one of our church papers, especially the one on the Bulgarian clergy. It shows that there is an appreciation of the need of reform and an effort to bring it about. So far as I know, there is no such desire for reform in the church in Servia and Roumania, where there has been no Protestant movement. The editor of the paper has been our teacher in drawing for 2 years and often comes to our services, but he is not at all subsidized. Many wonder that he dares to write so boldly.

L. F. O.

Dr. Pol. Feb. 14-1906.

Rec'd MAR 26 1906 57

Samokov, Bulgaria, March 12, 1906.

Rev. James L. Barton. D. D.,

Ans'd MAR 26 1906

Boston, Mass.,

My dear Dr. Barton, --- I am in receipt of your letter of Feb. 13 in regard to the plans and health of Miss Baird. The matter will be brought to the attention of the Annual Meeting and as soon as possible the opinion of the mission will be forwarded to you.

Dr. House has been here for a few days, coming up at the end of a tour in the Razlog. At his suggestion I am writing you just a word today to ask you a question. It is this:- Is it probable that our mission would be one of the first to be given up in case ~~that~~ the Board does not have funds to carry on its present work? If you could give us some information as to the likelihood of our mission being suspended it would be of great assistance to us in discussing and deciding some of the questions raised by the Prudential Committee. It will be best to send your answer to me direct to Salonica in care of the ~~miss~~ mission.

Dr. House has conducted some very helpful meetings here which supplemented the work previously done by Pastor Furnajieff. A good degree of interest was manifested, especially in the schools, and a number of decisions for Christ were made. 18 of the boys in our school publicly expressed their desire to give themselves to Christ and to lead the Christian life, while the number from the Girls' School is much larger. There are also some from the city.

This week we have the spring meeting of the Trustees of our schools which will be a very important one. I trust that you have received the letter and the printed copies of the appeal which I sent you about three weeks ago.

We are following the campaign with much interest and satisfaction.

With Christian greetings from all, Cordially yours,

L. F. Ostrander.

P.S. Please convey the heart felt sympathy of this station and himself to Dr. Smith in the loss of his wife, and his own from the work of the Board. L.F.O.

Samuelson, Paul.

Trans. 12-1906.

Rec'd APR 16 1906 58

Samokov, April 2, 1906.

Rev. James L. Barton, D. D.,,

Rec'd APR 20 1906

Boston, Mass.,

My dear Dr. Barton,

Your favor of March 15th with its enclosure from the Conference on Federation has been duly received and copied, and will be forwarded to the other stations of the Mission.

I think there is nothing in your letter that reqires specially to be answered just now. At the date of writing you had not received any copies of the printed statement about the C. and T. I. On Feb. 24th or thereabout I sent you 30 copies of this appeal. I hope that you have received them all right. I have just about exhausted the supply I had and so could not now send you any more. In case you have not received them, I would like to have you give the type-written copy which I sent you to the printers and have, say 200 copies, struck off as soon as possible, the expense involved to be charged to my account with Mr. Wiggin. Then you will please take and use as many of them as you can, keeping the rest with you at our disposal. We are praying that God will bless this appeal, and sincerely hope that it will meet with a generous response.

I have nothing special to write you today. We are still expecting to begin our annual meeting in Salonica on the 13th inst. The missionaries there have been hoping to have a workers' conference immediately after our meeting, but it now seems doubtful if the government will allow such a gathering.

We regret the extra work that has been put upon you, and especially its cause, and hope that Dr. Smith will soon be able to resume his work.

With cordial Christian greetings, I remain,

Sincerely yours, L. F. Ostrander.

Samokov. Bul. Apr. 2-1906

Rec'd MAY 21 1906

Samokov, Bulgaria,

Rev. James L. Barton, D. D., May 7, 1906.

Boston, Mass.,

My dear Dr. Barton,

Your letter of Apr. 21st has just been received, in which you say that you have not received any copies of the printed appeal for the C. and T. I. and also that you do not have what you consider to be my original unprinted copy. I regret that the printed copies have miscarried and also that a misunderstanding or confusion has caused such an undesirable delay.

Referring to your letter of Mar. 15th, 1906 I find these statements:- "I have yours of Feb. 14th with enclosures, all of which I have carefully read. I thank you for the translation of the articles and also for your statement about the C. and T. I." Now this statement to which you refer was my typewritten copy of the text of the appeal which was printed, and it was this statement that I wished you to have set up and copies of it printed to the number of 200. I hardly think it best to have it reprinted here, and will leave the question as to how you will use this appeal, a printed copy of which I enclose herewith, entirely to your judgment. I am afraid it is now pretty late for much to be done before the 1st. of July.

I hope soon to get off the documents of annual meeting. My going as our mission delegate to the conference of the Methodist Mission immediately after our meeting, and then taking up my regular work after an absence of 3 weeks , have delayed me somewhat. We had a good meeting, although rather trying in some ways, and took several important decisions which we hope the Prudential Committee will be able to approve.

The San Francisco catastrophe was indeed a terrible affair and gave good reason for the sympathy and help that have been so liberally afforded.

With warmest greetings, Cordially yours, L. F. Ostrander.

P.S. Is it not possible that you have turned over to Dr. Str the typewritten copy of the appeal, as you suggested in your letter of Mar. 15 that you might do?

L.F.O.

Samuel W. Dike

May 7-1906.

Rec'd MAY 21 1903

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THE COLLEGIATE AND THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE,

Samokov, Bulgaria,

ITS HISTORY, WORK AND NEEDS.

This Institute is a school for the higher education of boys and young men, and is under the care of the European Turkey Mission of the American Board. With the exception of Robert College, Constantinople, it is the only Protestant institution of the kind in all the Balkan Peninsula. Its language of instruction is Bulgarian, and its 500 and more students have been almost exclusively Bulgarians from Bulgaria and from Macedonia.

The school dates from 1861, 4 years after the founding of the mission and 17 years before the establishment of Bulgarian independence. It has always had as its principal object the furtherance of the evangelistic work of the mission. At one time its design was simply to train up preachers and other native workers; but various circumstances made it necessary to alter and expand the course so as to include secular as well as theological studies. As now arranged this course consists of six years given to high school and collegiate subjects after the plan of the European gymnasium, to which we add Bible study in each year; and of one year extra for theological studies for those who wish to prepare for the ministry. A printing office in which the students do the great bulk of the work of the publication department of the mission, a carpentry shop and various forms of school work give the pupils to some extent manual training and practical knowledge of useful crafts, emphasize the dignity of labor, and enable many poor boys to help pay their way through school.

The atmosphere of the Institute is positively and continuously religious. The morning and evening daily prayers, the religious basis of

teaching and discipline, the systematic and personal dealing with every student in regard to his spiritual welfare, and the church services in which the school participates, are all evangelizing influences. Religion is thus made the basis of education, and there is not another school for boys, with the exception of the Orthodox Theological Seminary and some Catholic institutions, in the whole Bulgarian population of more than 5,000,000 of which the same can be said. These evangelistic means are not in vain. Hardly a a year passes without several of the students, from both Protestant and Orthodox families, making the personal surrender to Christ, and others, after leaving the school, recognize the value of the religious training they have received and are grateful for it. From the earliest days of the mission the men in the native ministry, almost without exception, have received their training, in whole or in part, in the Institute: and since 1881 it has sent out 19 men who have done and are doing good work as pastors and preachers; while at least 12 others have already made their mark in other good ways. More graduates would have become pastors if there had been more funds to provide for their support in various new places. And more than this, those who have been students in the school, even if not Protestants, open up the way for evangelical workers in the communities in which they reside.

Bulgaria is yet in its formative stage, politically, intellectually and religiously. Skepticism, infidelity and contempt for religion prevail almost universally among the educated classes. The only hope of the country is to raise up men of strength and powers of leadership who will exert a steadying influence on the nation at this critical period. To do this is the purpose and effort of the Collegiate and Theological Institute.

But such an institution, in order to do justice to its constituents, the Bulgarian Protestants, and to commend itself to the people in general, ought to be at least equal to the best native schools of the same class. This, unfortunately, is not true to-day of our school. During the last 25 years Bulgaria has made splendid progress in the development of national education, and to-day has a system of schools which is commendable in its intellectual and secular training, although decidedly deplorable in its moral and religious influence. The mission's school has not kept pace with the development of the national gymnasium. As a consequence it has no official

standing with the government and its certificates and diplomas are not recognized in official circles. This militates against the standing of the Institute in the country, and deters many desirable pupils who would otherwise be attracted to it. Government recognition would mean, for one thing, conforming the curriculum to that of the national gymnasia, which have a 7 years' course, and that would involve more teachers and greater expense. At the last annual meeting of the mission it was voted to approve and authorize the gradual introduction of the full gymnasium curriculum, and at the beginning of the present school year some changes were made along that line and a promise of further ones held out. This step has been heartily approved by the friends of the school and the attendance this year is larger than for some years past, 73 having been enrolled.

But, just at this critical time, when the school is already in debt through its efforts, with reduced funds, to maintain its position and to take a step forward, our Secretary, Dr. Barton, reluctantly informs us that there can be no increased appropriation for the school. But we *must* have more money to take advantage of the opportunity now before us, which possibly we may lose forever if it is not now embraced; and so we are compelled to make a special appeal. Our immediate and pressing needs which must be provided for by the first of July, 1906, are :—

1. $500 to clear off the debt of the school and enable us to go on with a clean sheet.

2. $1,000, supplementary to the present resources of the school, to cover the increased expenses caused by the changes already made and by those which ought to be introduced for the school year 1906—'07.

3. $375 to enable the printing office to continue its work of training and aiding the students. The appropriation asked for the publication department has been so much reduced and so much of the remainder has to be assigned to the mission newspaper that without such help the printing office cannot be effectively operated.

These are our *immediate, pressing* needs which must be met if we are to go on. Further changes in other years will demand a further increased annual expenditure, and we must eventually have an endowment of $100,000. If we do not have the promise of $1850 by the 1st of July, 1906, we shall be greatly crippled in the work of the school, and possibly

Statement about C. & S. I.

go to the wall altogether. We shall be forced to make curtailments which can only be detrimental to the best influence of the Institute, and may lead to its complete suspension; for if a retrograde movement is now made it is almost inevitable that we shall lose our students.

In view of the great need of such a school in Bulgaria; also of the portentous events now transpiring in Russia and the influence, which, in certain eventualities, they are likely to have on Bulgaria; and in view also of the fact that Bulgaria, once evangelized, might exert a powerful influence for the evangelization of the neighboring states of Roumania, Servia and Russia, where Protestant missionaries are not allowed: it does not seem that it can be God's will to close the only evangelical school for young men in all this region for lack of funds. We shall do all we can to get the Bulgarians themselves to support the school more liberally, but we need your help and we are hopeful that we shall have it.

The Institute has the confidence and sympathy of the mission of the Methodist Episcopal Church of America in Northern Bulgaria, and is under the direct management of the Prudential Committee of the American Board, who will act as Trustees for it. Further information may be obtained from Rev. James L. Barton, D. D., 14 Beacon St., Boston, Mass. Contributions may be sent to Mr. F. H. Wiggin, at the same address.

In behalf of the local Trustees.

H. C. HASKELL, President of the Trustees.
L. F. OSTRANDER, Principal of the Institute.

Samokov, Bulgaria,
Feb. 22, 1906.

Mission School Press.

Rec'd AUG 20 1906 61

Samokov, Bulgaria,
August 3, 1906.

Rev. James L. Barton, D. D.,
Boston, Mass.,

Ans'd OCT 5 1906

My dear Dr. Barton; - On looking over my file of letters from you I find quite an accumulation of unanswered communications, for none have been acknowledged since the one of April 21, and you have had occasion to write pretty frequently since then. I regret the delay in answering exceedingly, and my only excuse is that the work of the school has been unusually engrossing during the past few months, and has left me but little time for anything in other lines. Even my weekly home letter has oftentimes gone by the board of late. But I have managed to get the letters copied and sent on to the other stations without much delay and very likely you have heard from several members of the mission on various points raised in your communications.

Before referring to other points in your letters, let me express my sorrow and sense of loss in the death of Secretary Smith. His was certainly a period of long and useful service in the work of our Board, and he will be greatly missed, both at home and abroad, for a long time to come. Although it was not my privilege to correspond with Dr. Smith, still he was my Secretary for a short time, for when we were appointed and came out you were in India in deputation work, and Dr. Smith had taken over your duties. So much of our preliminary correspondence and all our interviews at the Rooms were held with him, and we well remember his courtesy and cordiality. But his work is now finished and his place must be filled by another. May the Lord guide very clearly and positively in the choice that must be made, for the glory of His name and the advancement of His kingdom.

I think that you yourself will be the first to admit that much of the news in your letters, such, for instance, as the items referring to the C. and T. I., the Zornitsa and the salary of Mr. Frohlich, was not very welcome reading. We are very sorry that we have to take such decisions as the final word, but if that is the inevitable, we shall have to bow to it, try to learn the lesson that it is to teach us and go on the best we can with limited resources. We are very grateful for your efforts and those of Miss Stone in behalf of the Boys' School, and I am sure that you have not yet finished your work for it. So far as I know to date, we now have about $425 in hand or promised extra for the expenses of the next school year. I feel quite confident that we can raise another $100 among the Bulgarian friends of the school, and it will not be surprising if other gifts will still come in. With the closest economy and by dispensing with everything except the absolutely necessary, and by giving the missionaries more work in connection with the school, we think that we shall be able to carry out our plans for an enlarged program and for having a theological class without increasing the present debt of the school. We even cherish a faint hope that we may be able to reduce the debt somewhat. And in this connection I may refer to the subject of your last letter, the deputation to solicit funds for the school. The idea was to have this deputation consist of a missionary and a Bulgarian, who would go to England and America, and possibly Germany and Switzerland, make addresses, interview people and try to interest all that they could in various ways in the needs and opportunities of the school. Mr. Baird, as secretary of the Trustees, I believe has written you on this point and has communicated officially their request for such

a deputation. The truth of the matter is that the idea of this deputation comes largely from our native brethren who seem to think that all that is necessary is for someone to go to America, do a little talking and present the needs of the school, and then the necessary money will easily be found. We missionaries have never been very enthusiastic for the proposal, but we feel in duty bound to make every possible suggestion and use every possible means for finding more money for the school. And then, too, our Bulgarian friends will never be satisfied until there is some decisive word from Boston on the subject. I am very glad of your letter on this point, and in view of it I do not believe that I can say anything more that would be of any worth in supporting the proposal.

In regard to a missionary from Albania, I have an expression of opinion only from Mr. William Clarke, who writes as follows:- It would be "possible", but not at all feasable; it would not be so profitable to work so far from one's headquarters. Albania needs to have its missionaries live in Albania, and would they might be sent there at once. It would make a difference in the work in more ways than one, especially before the government." I think this would be the concensus of opinion of all in the mission, and I hope that some have written directly to you on the subject.

I am in receipt of a request from Dr. Strong to send to the Rooms for safe keeping a copy of all important missionary documents, especially those giving the history of our missionary work. I do not know much about such documents conneceted with our mission, and the inquiries that I have thus far made have not been productive of very satisfactory results, but later in the vacation I will try to look the matter up more carefully and report to Dr. Strong. I also have a request from the Woman's Board to give them a description of distinctively woman's work in our Mission. I shall try to have one of the ladies prepare such a report.

Our school year closed on the whole very successfully. There were six graduates from the Girls' School and four from ours, and the commencement exercises were larely attended and well appreciated. The present indications are that we shall have full schools again next year. In fact we are planning for increased accommodations in our Boys' School.

Tomorrow I start on a combined recreation and preaching tour which will include visits to two of our outstations. After this I expect to spend a Sunday for preaching in both Kustendil and Sofia. According to present plans I shall probably preach somewhere almost every Sunday of our school vacation.

I hope after these tours are over to be able to write you more fully as to conditions of the fiel and work, but I do not feel that I can make any definite promise, for I find that when I am here on the spot my time is so taken up with details of the work of the school and station that I have very little that I can give to correspondence.

Hoping that you are passing a pleasant summer and are having some chance to rest from the heavy work that has been on you during these last few months, and with cordial greetings from all our station circle, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

L. F. Ostrander

Samokov, Bulgaria.
Aug. 3, 1906.

Rec'd OCT 31 1906

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Samokov, Bulgaria,
Oct. 17, 1906.

Rev. James L. Barton, D. D.,
Boston, Mass.,

My dear Dr. Barton,

Enclosed you will find a copy of a circular vote of the Mission in regard to the Methodist occupation of Sofia, together with the signatures of the members of the Mission and their comments on their votes. I think Miss Clarke's action was due to forgetting the vote of the last annual meeting or to a misunderstanding of the work that had been done by the committee as set forth in the preamble of the vote. I understand also that Dr. Clarke was not fully satisfied with the expression of opinion that had been obtained from our Bulgarian brethren and started a circular vote among them relative to the matter, which vote, I believe, is to be or has been forwarded to you. Dr. Clarke has probably written to you about this himself, but I mention it so that you may be sure to know about it. In case the Bulgarian vote has not reached you by the time this does, you will use your own judgment as to whether to hold back the intimation of our vote to the Methodist Board, or not.

Oct. 18. Unacknowledged letters from you that have come since I last wrote are those of July 27th (including the copy of the identical letter to all the Missions) September 12, and October 5, the last of which was received this morning. The contents of all of these either have been or will be duly forwarded to the other stations of the mission.

Referring to your letter of July 17 which reports your conference with Dr. G. N. Chakaloff, you will be interested to know that Dr. C. has returned to Bulgaria and is at present in Samokov. I saw him pass on the street not more than ten minutes ago. I have seen him once or twice and had a little talk with him, but nothing at all extensive. He expects to resume his medical service in the Bulgarian army and hopes that within a few months he may be located at Samokov. In his conservation with you did he tell you that his father is a prominent member of our Samokov church and has served as Deacon? Unfortunately his sons, for the most part, do not seem inclined to share their father's religious views. Dr. Chakaloff undoubtedly did some medical studying while he was in America; but if the whole truth is told I think it would have to be said that his principal object in crossing the water was to work in the interests of the Macedonian revolutionary movement. In regard to the questions which your interview with him called forth, I do not feel that I can go into a full answer of them today. I will, however, refer you to the report of the Samokov Station to the Annual Meeting of 1906 where I touch upon things connected with this subject. It seems to us there is a shaking among the dry bones. (While in the midst of the last sentence Mr. Momchiloff, one of our American trained teachers, came in and, without my referring to the subject on which I was writing, said that at present there is a strong movement among the people and the priests for greater religious liberty, and he mentioned the worth and influence of an Orthodox religious paper called "Duxovna Probuda", or "The Spiritual Awakener." This paper, published bi-weekly and having some of the leading Bulgarian writers among its contributors, already has between 5000 and 6000 subscribers, thus far outstripping our Zornitsa. It is read by many of our preachers and workers from beginning to end with interest and profit.) But it

must be admitted that the church, almost without exception, regards our missionary movement as hostile, and I for one cannot as yet answer the question as to how their opinion can be changed. It is absolutely certain that at the present time there would be no hope of a person educated only in our school and seminary getting a position as priest in the Orthodox church. This same Mr. Momchiloff, after his return from America, tried for several years to work independently of the missioaries and in connection with the National church, but he could not make it go. Others with Protestant convictions have earnestly tried to work from within, but eventually they have either had to give up their convictions (or at least working for them) or come out into the Protestant body. However I think sentiment is slowly changing in the mass of the people, who are demamding better priests and more teaching in the church, and it may not be long be before the bishops and other church authorities will be compelled to grant the changes required and to raise the church to a higher spiritual level.

My trip during the summer, to which I referred in my last letter, was carried out as planned and, on the whole was satisfactory and encouraging. The work in the village of Ludjene, near the Turkish boarder, is especially encouraging. The community is constantly growing and the audiences tax to the uttermost the capacity of the new place of worship that has been secured. There is serious talk of organizing a church there. Sofia gave me an attentive hearing in the Kindergarten building where the meetings were held during the repairing of the church building. In Kustendil we found universal appreciation of Mr. and Mrs. Furnajieff and of the good work they have done there, and universal protestation against the proposal to remove him to Haskovo. Banya, Kostenets and Dubnitsa were the other places visited, and, with the exception of Kostenets, the visits were satisfactory.

Mr. Popoff is planning to leave his Sofia church for a season to solicite funds in western Europe and America for the repairs of the church building. As a station we could not approve this step, but we offered no formal objections, although we clearly intimated to the church and to him that we could sanction no appeals to Congregational circles in America.

Our schools have opened prosperously and are full to overflowing. There are several things in connection with them that I shall want to write you presently. I have recently written briefly to Miss Stone to thank her for her untiring efforts, which have made it possible to avoid the damaging announcement that we could not go forward. Perhaps she will show you the letter. We have a theological class of five.

Hoping to be able to write again soon, and with cordial Christian greetings from all in the station, I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

L. F. Ostrander

We are looking forward with much pleasure to the visit of Drs. Creegan and Hitchcock.

L. F. O.

Samarkov. Okul.

Oct. 17. 1906

Rec'd FEB 21 1907
Ans'd MAY 10 1907

Samokov, Bulgaria,
Feb. 6, 1907.

Rev. Enoch F. Bell,
Boston, Mass.,
My dear Mr. Bell,

I am in receipt of numerous communications from Dr. Barton and yourself, so numerous, in fact, that I shall not attempt to name or refer to them all. They have been copied and forwarded to the other stations of the Mission, and it is quite probable that you have heard directly from some of the other missionaries in regard to various matters contained in them.

We are sure that the present arrangement for carrying on the correspondence of the Board with its various missionary stations will be thoroughly satisfactory and effective, and we extend to you a most hearty welcome to your new position, and would assure you that we shall not forget your request to pray for God's guidance for you and for His blessing on your work.

The letter from the Prudential Committee to the churches of Bulgaria has been translated into Bulgarian and copies have been sent to all the churches of the Mission. The subject was brought to the attention of the local church at the beginning of the week of prayer, and was specially remembered during that week.

We are grateful for the addition of $500 which the appropriations for 1907 have given to our Mission. The share that will come to the C. and T. I. will be a most welcome lift, and the "Zornitsa" also greatly appreciates such assistance. I hope within a short time to prepare another statement as to the needs of our school from which you will understand how thankful we are for any help that comes to it. I have just finished a talk with our professor in chemistry and physics, in which he set forth the imperative needs of both departments, especially the chemical, and it is rather hard to have to feel that we do not know whether or not we can supply these needs. When Drs. Hitchcock and Creegan made us their very welcome and helpful visit last November, it only needed one glance at our cabinets for them to see that we are very inadequately supplied and that enlargement and improvement must be made.

In regard to a higher salary for Miss Stone, which question was raised in a recent letter, I have had an expression of opinion only from Philipoppolis, and that was that the matter should be left until our Annual Meeting, which, in all probability will be held in Monastir early in May. If an earlier expression of opinion is required, we can start a discussion of the matter with a circular vote.

I have not time to write at length today concerning several items of interest connected with our work. Mr. Holway made a tour during the Christmas vacation to Sofia and Ludjene, and found things on the whole in a satisfactory condition. Our theological students were also out in the field during the vacation and report encouraging work. The society in Ludjene, which is a new one made up in large part of Protestant refugees from northern Macedonia, is making good progress and is contributing generously for the maintainance and development of the work. Our great need in the evangelistic work just now is more workers and the money to support them. Many places are calling for preachers and are ready to help support them, but we cannot find the men to supply them. Some of our former workers have left Bulgaria for various reasons, and are now preachers in America. More about this another time. We await with interest further development of the Methodist matter.

With fraternal greetings,
Sincerely yours,
L. F. Ostrander.

Samokov Bul.

Feb 6-1907

Rec'd APR 26 1907

Ans'd MAY 10 1907

Samokov, Bulgaria,
April 11, 1907.

Rev. Enoch F. Bell,
Boston, Mass.,

My dear Mr. Bell:- I was going to begin my letter today by saying that nothing requiring acknowledgement had come from you or from the rooms since my last letter of Feb. 6th; but the morning's post has brought a short communication from Dr. Patton and the copies of the questions to be distributed to the various members of our Mission. This matter will have the proper attention and probably some answer will be given by the Mission at its annual meeting, which is to be held in Monastir beginning on the 2nd of May.

I am enclosing a copy of the appeal for the C. and T. I. which we have recently prepared, and am also sending you under separate cover 25 copies of the same. I trust that you may be able to place these where they will be productive of good results for the Institute. I have written to Miss Stone and sent her copies, and hope that you will be able to consult with her and arrange for active measures on our behalf. We cannot express too strongly our deep appreciation for all that she has done for us in recent years in the way of securing special help for various branches of our Mission's work, and particularly during the last year for the school. In my letter to Miss Stone I mentioned one thing in connection with the school which it may be well to repeat to you. It is that, in a way, we are doing home missionary work, for many of our students go to swell the tide of immigration in the United States. I know of at least 33 who have been students here during the last five years and are now in America, and many others unquestionably will go. We try to oppose and discourage this movement as much as possible, but inasmuch as it continues, isn't it an important thing that those who will become future citizens of America should have some acquaintance with the spirit and religion of the country to which they are going? I know that you have many calls upon your time and work, and that all connected with the administration of the Board are confronted with the serious problem of keeping up the regular receipts to the amount necessary for the work in hand; and so we make no special, definite request of the Prudential Committee, but simply ask that you give our appeal as much attention as you can in view of what seems to us its great importance.

You may have seen notices of the murder of Prime Minister Petkoff, of Sofia. It was a most regretable and indefensible affair, but it has not led to any outbreaks of disorder. The government has been maintained with a firm hand and we have suffered no interference nor interruption in our work. The present government, however, which is anti-Russian in general policy, is becoming quite unpopular because of its severity, and so many have to give place to one with different views in regard to church matters as well as other things.

We are very glad to learn, though not officially, that there is a bright prospect of work being begun among the Albanians. Now that the means are provided, let us hope and pray that the men necessary for the work may be found. We are also gladdened by the news, sent us from the W. B. I., that a lady missionary has been found for the Samokov G. B. S. We shall give her a most hearty welcome.

Please tell Dr. Patton that I have received his communications.

With cordial greetings to all, I remain,

Fraternally yours,

L. F. Ostrander.

Samokov, Apr. 11-1907.

Samuel R. Bull

Rec'd JUN 5 1907

Samokov, Bulgaria, May 22, 1907.

Rev. Enoch F. Bell,
Boston, Mass.,

My dear Mr. Bell,

Yours of April 10th came just in time to be included in the bunch of letters and documents which were sent to Monastir for the perusal and consideration of our Annual Meeting. Your communication in regard to the opinion of Dr. Carroll concerning the extension of their work here was not so much of a surprise to some of the members of the mission as to others, and I imagine that it will be the greatest surprise of all to Supt. Count. We shall be interested to hear what action the Committee will take in regard to the whole matter.

I hope to be able to send you in a few days the minutes and other documents from our Annual Meeting. The meeting was held under difficulties in the way of travel because of heavy floods, and was one of the shortest in recent years; yet I imagine that most of the important business was attended to. I am sending you with this a copy of one of the documents, viz:-the report of the C. and T. I., because I want you to read it before you would get around to reading it with the other documents, and also because I think you can make immediate use of it. I understand that you have an arrangement at the Rooms by which such letters and reports can be copied and multiplied, and it has occurred to me that it might be a good plan to have parts of this report reproduced in this manner and used for distribution along with the printed statement about the school, of which I sent you copies a short time ago. I have condensed the report somewhat, cutting out things that are of less general interest. The lines that are crossed out in lead pencil are to be omitted, and all that is included in the parentheses in ink is to be given. I want you to read the whole report, and I think the lead pencil marks will not hinder you in doing so, and of course I will leave it to your judgment as to what shall be reproduced, these marks of mine being merely suggestions. When you have finished with the report at the Rooms, I should like to have Miss Stone see it so that she may read it all, and she should also be supplied with copies of any reproduction that may be made. If the Missionary Herald could give an extract from it, that would be good too. This report is supplementary to the printed statement, and seems to me to give facts and details that prospective contributors to the school would like to know about. Please use it in any way you can. In my next I may send you a list of names and addresses to which I would like to have the report sent.

Rev. Irving Metcalf and family, of Oberlin, attended most of the sessions of our Annual Meeting and have also visited Salonica and Samokov. We greatly enjoyed their fellowship and were much encouraged by their sympathetic interest in and appreciation of our work.

We are having a very dry spring, and farm work is almost impossible. As the fall crops were winter killed in many places and the spring sowings are likely to be a failure, the prospects for the harvest this year are quite gloomy and people are already beginning to say that next year will be a "hungry year." We are praying that this may be averted, for agricultural failure will entail great suffering here in Bulgaria.

With best greetings from all our station, I remain,

Sincerely yours, L. F. Ostrander.

Samokov -

May 22 1907

Samokov -

Rec'd JUL 11 1907

Samokov, June 27, 1907.

Rev. Enoch F. Bell,
JUL 11 1907
Boston, Mass,

My dear Mr. Bell,

I send you herewith the last of the documents in connection with the recent annual meeting of our mission. I am sorry that they have come to you in such a scattered way, but there was a misunderstanding as to how they should be sent on. However, I hope that with this consignment you will have received all that are due. The thing that I have the most doubt about is the report of the Publication Department. I think it was forwarded by Mr. Haskell along with the minutes, the letter to the Rooms, and the report of Salonica Station; but if you do not have it, let me know and I will forward you another copy. I am sending a copy of the financial report of the "Zornitsa", as there seems to be some doubt as to whether the Boston copy was sent on. If you find that this is a duplicate you need not return it, as I have a copy for the mission records.

You doubtless received a card a few days ago announcing the birth of our first child. I am glad to report that mother and son are doing finely.

This morning we received a letter from Miss Stone (Mrs. O. and I), but in it she makes no mention of my recent letter about the school, nor of the statement and appeal. Do you know whether she has received them? From the tone of her letter I judge that she has. — We are now in the midst of yearly exams. and closing days.

With cordial greetings, Sincerely yours, L. F. Ostrander.

Samokov - Bul - June 27 - 1907.

rec'd NOV 18 1907

Ostrander

Samokov, Bulgaria,
Oct. 30, 1907.

Rev. James L. Barton, D. D.,
Boston, Mass.,

My dear Dr. Barton,

A few weeks ago Dr. Marsh sent us a copy of a letter which he had prepared and forwarded to you (we don't know just when) in order to give you his views of certain phases and conditions of the work of our Mission. Various efforts were made to get Dr. Marsh to change certain features of this letter, but to no effect; and we understand that it has been sent to you in the form which we have seen. Such being the case, the members of Samokov Station, with whom the letter mainly deals, feel that we cannot let the matter pass entirely unnoticed, and have appointed me to write you in connection with it. This I shall attempt to do in a general way, without entering into the detailed answers that could be given on every point that Dr. Marsh has raised.

And first I would say that we do not care to attempt to answer or deny the insinuations and charges as to the private motives that have actuated some of us in advocating certain measures, such as Bible Revision and a Loan Fund for Students Who expect to become Teachers. We feel that you are sufficiently well acquainted with the spirit and service of the various members of our Mission to make it unnecessary to defend ourselves along such lines; and while we deeply regret that such charges have been preferred by a fellow-member of our Mission, we are sure that we can safely leave to your judgment, without any attempt to vindicate ourselves, the matter of deciding how much importance should be attached to these charges.

In the second place, it should be remembered that Dr. Marsh, as he himself admits, in thus writing has given the views of a minority of the Mission, and in regard to many points, a minority of one. Of course Dr. Marsh has the right to express his views to you or to anybody else to whom they can properly be expressed; but the length of his expositions and the strength of his language should not be permitted to conceal the fact that he is speaking as a minority. All these questions and subjects to which he refers have been discussed and decided in Annual Meetings--there have been no "snap" decisions nor underhand work--and Dr. Marsh, on principle, has not missed an Annual Meeting for many years. He has had the right to express his views at these meetings and has freely availed himself of that right; and if he has not been able to win over a majority of his associates to his views, it seems to us that he ought to conform to their views and to accept the principle that the will of the majority must govern the Mission's course of action.

Without referring in detail to all the points which Dr. Marsh has discussed, we feel that we must give an answer to at least three which we think decidedly misleading and unjust. First, in regard to the Publication Department, Mr. Thomson is ready to furnish you with full details as to the character of the publications turned out, which are not by any means only dictionaries and phrase books, and also explanations as to why there are not more publications of a purely religious character. Also the minutes of the last Annual Meeting (pgs 5 & 6) show that the Mission has not committed itself exclusively to the publication of purely secular works, but on the contrary has carefully limited itself in that connection in favor of the religious literature that it may be found desirable and profitable to publish. The undertaking of

Bible Revision is approved "as soon as satisfactory arrangements can be made", according to the minutes (pg 10); but no one,we think,would say that"satisfactory arrangements can be made" so long as the Mission is as short handed as it is at present, and we cannot see that the actual undertaking of the work is at imminent. And for the same reason Samokov Station is not at all likely XX to lose the Holways in the near future , for it was understood that they would be located in Sofia only when a new missionary family is on the ground to take their place in Samokov.

Another point is the statement, or rather statements, in regard to the Samokov G. B. S. One might think from this that the school was about to close its doors on account of a lack of confidence on the part of the people, while on the contrary there is not room enough for all who desire to be pupils. And if the relations between the pupils of our two schools and those between the girls and officers and townspeople are so deplorable, why is it that Samokov people, who certainly are in a position to know about such things, are sending their daughters to the school in greater numbers that ever before? The relations between the students of the two schools are guarded by strict regulations, and the writer, during a residence here of over five years, remembers only three or four cases of discipline made necessary by infringements of these rules. In each case the gravity of the offense consisted more in the transgression of the school laws than in anything intrinsically wrong. The actual offenses would have been considered trivial and unimportnat in America. We do not think that young Bulgarians can or ought to be longer brought up with the Turkish idea of the complete isolation of the sexes the one from the other; and so we do not and cannot consider the exchange of glances and of words now and then as indications of deplorable laxity and impropriety. Unbecoming conduct is severely dealt with, and the girl upon whose forward conduct the stories about officers are probably based is not a student now and has not been for over a year. And again, the general condition and tendency of society in Bulgaria must be taken into consideration, and from this point of view our Girls' School cannot only challenge comparison with any of the ordinary sch'ls of the country, but stands on a plain incomparably above them. We, too, realize and regret the fact that our schools are not turning out as many workers as is desirable, but we cannot feel that all the blame should rest upon the schools and those conducting them. We think it only fair to ask if our Protestant churches and homes are doing all they should in sending us suitable candidates to be prepared for workers. Then, too, the American fever and the desire to continue in higher institutions are factors in the problem that have great meaning and must not be forgotten; and to this may be added that the pitiably small salaries which our teachers and Bible Women receive, in the changed and changing conditions of life in Bulgaria, call for a degree of consecration which some of us feel is hardly reasonable to expect, and practically shut the door in the face of many who might make good workers. As to the particular case mentioned by Dr. Marsh (the seven young ladies who graduated last July) we do not XXXX think it very strange that there are not many teachers or Bible Women from their number. The average age of these girls was 18, the oldest being only 20; and at that age they are hardly mature enough to make good workers, at least Bible Women. Five of these girls are from Protestant homes, and of these two are continuing their education elsewhere, one is teaching, and two are at home. The two girls from Orthodox homes are also studying in higher institutions, or classes.

The third point is that in regard to the attempts to take one of the pastors out of the pastorate. On page 2 of sheet 7 Dr. Marsh says:..."the two ladies who have served as directress of the school (Miss Malthie and Miss Haskell) are trying to get one of our few pastors out of the pastorate in order to be a teacher in the Girls' as well as the Boys' School at Samokov"... and on page 1 on sheet eight is this statement:-"And it is known that Mr. Count, or one of his men, invited our pastor,(Mr. Setchanoff) to leave his work in our field and go to work in the Methodist Mission." A few facts in regard to both of these statements seem to be desirable and necessary.

For at least a year it has been well known to all of us that it was very questionable whether Mr. Setchanoff could or would remain in Philippopolis as pastor. Last spring he wrote to Mr. Thomson saying that he felt he must leave and asking if some other work could not be found for him. The reply given, after consultation, was that nothing definite could be said until after the approaching Annual Meeting of the Mission, when the matter could be discussed by representatives of all the stations. After Annual Meeting Mr. Setchanoff asked Dr. Marsh what had been decided, and was told that no definite action was taken in regard to him. He seemed much disappointed, and said that he would then have to arrange things himself and might seek work outside of the Mission.

From the observations of some of us shortly after, it seemed that Mr. Setchanoff was likely to do this, and so, early in June, on the initiative either of Mr. Holway or the writer, (not of the lady teachers) Samokov Station informed Philippopolis Station that,"as a last measure, we would prefer to invite Mr. Setchanoff to come to Samokov as a teacher in the schools than have him leave the work of our Mission,"assuring them at the same time that we should much prefer to have him remain in the pastorate somewhere, if possible. Philippopolis Station strongly objected to this proposal, and insisted that we ought not to extend any such invitation to Mr. Setchanoff until after the Annual Meeting of the Trustees in July. We deferred to their desire, and no proposition about the schools was then made to Mr. Setchanoff either officially or privately. Later Dr. Haskell reported that Mr. Setchanoff had put this question to him, "Then, as far as the Mission is concerned, I am at liberty to find work elsewhere, am I?" and that he had answered, "I don't see anything with us now. What may be in the future I can't tell." Then we wrote to Mr. Setchanoff asking him not to bind himself elsewhere until after the Annual Meeting of the Trustees. At that meeting it was shown that all attempts to get Mr. Setchanoff to locate as a pastor either in Philippopolis Station or in Samokov Station had failed (partly on account of inadequate salary) and Dr. Marsh, when asked what he would do with him, could give no satisfactory answer. Yet in spite of all this, as a result of our deliberations, we voted to tell Mr. Setchanoff that we thought he ought to remain in the pastorate, and to urge him to accept an offer from Salonica. This last attempt also failed, and so at length, on the 28th of August, the Trustees' invitation reached Mr. Setchanoff. Does such a course of procedure look as if the Trustees, women or men, had been trying to take that pastor from the pastorate? Mr. Setchanoff himself has written ..."as many times as I [redacted] ventured to enter the school's gates, I found them closed."

The answer we received from Mr. Setchanoff was, that he was sorry, but our invitation had come too late. The reason for this was seen later when it became known that he had entered into an agreement to work in the Methodist Mission. Because of the protests of some of our native brethren and our own

reluctance to lose such a worker, of whom we still have great need, we acted on a suggestion from Pastor Popoff, that Mr. Setchanoff might accept our invitation if he could be released from his agreement with the Methodists, and wrote to Supt. Count asking if he could consent to free him. I give his reply "Rustchuk, Oct. 9th, 1907. Dear Brother Ostrander, I received yours of Oct. 7th this morning. I am very glad to have heard from you with reference to the subject in hand. It affords me too the opportunity of clearing the atmosphere of a certain wrong impression that has evidently gained currency in your Mission. You state in your letter that "he (Mr. Setchanoff) had accepted an invitation to work in your (our) Mission." This is the wrong impression I refer to. Permit me therefore to assure my friends of your Mission that neither directly nor indirectly, by myself personally nor by one connected with our Mission or any other Mission or no other Mission, either by direct proposition or veiled hint, has Mr. Setchanoff received "an invitation to work in our Mission." It is no more true than I have received an invitation from you to work in your Mission. I am sure that Mr. Setchanoff will endorse this statement in its fullest meaning. As to the question of his release from any engagement he may have entered into to work in our Mission, at your request if he writes me asking me to be released I will grant his request notwithstanding the difficulty I may experience in readjusting the work and the expense too involved in the same because of his purposed coming among us. With most cordial greetings and with a prayer that whatever results in relation to the question under consideration may be to the glory of Christ's kingdom in Bulgaria, I am, Very sincerely yours, (Signed) Elmer Ernst Count."

The third paragraph of this letter was communicated to Mr. Setchanoff and he was requested to ask release from Mr. Count and then reconsider our invitation. His reply in part was as follows: "The last few days have been passed in great struggles and prayer for God's guidance to do only His holy will, and finally I got the light and deep impression that so long as I applied for work in the Methodist Mission and in the absence of another encouraging opening, I gave my promise to engage in their work, I had no right to withdraw and cause lots of trouble and expenses. And so I thought it was my duty to go to Lovetch at least for one year."

Well, Mr. Setchanoff has been kept out of the schools and has already gone to Lovetch on terms more favorable than those we offered him only in this, that he has the free use of a parsonage and some furniture. Thus he has been lost to our Mission, and Dr. Marsh's preference, which he has frequently expressed, viz:- that he would rather lose Mr. Setchanoff from our work, at least temporarily, than have him "dictate to the Mission and become a teacher in Samokov", has come to pass. Whatever some may think, we of Samokov feel that we can ill afford to lose such a worker, and regret that he was compelled to take this step. We feel that we must give you the above facts and information in justice to our fellow-worker in Bulgaria, Rev. E. E. Count, who does not know what has been written about him, and so cannot defend himself. From what we now know of the matter, we cannot see that he has done a "black thing" in entering into an agreement with an able preacher who applied for work after having waited in vain five months for our Mission to make satisfactory arrangements for him. We can criticize Mr. Count only in this, that he did not consult us as to whether we were willing to part with Mr. Setchanoff or not before he took steps to act upon his proposition to engage in the work of their Mission. His willingness to release him was a more generous act than we really

expected.

In conclusion, it may be said that with some of Dr. Marsh's criticisms one, or another, or several of us are in full agreement. And all of us feel with him that the existing condition of our Mission work is not such as we would like to have it, and that it calls for careful and serious consideration. We are also one with him in praying that God will guide us all and make it plain what course of action we should take. But at the same time we feel that each one of us has the right to his own opinion and judgment as to what ought to be done, and that until the form of government of our Mission is changed and we have a bishop appointed over us with absolute authority and sole responsibility, the decisions of the majority of the Mission, arrived at after due deliberation and in the appointed manner, must determine the Mission's course of action.

If you feel that you wish a further expression of our views on the various matters that Dr. Marsh has brought up, or further explanation of the things mentioned in this letter, we shall be very glad to give them to you to the best of our ability.

With cordial Christian greetings from all in the Station, I remain, in behalf of the Station,

Very sincerely yours,

L. F. Ostrander.

Approved by Samokov Station, Oct. 29, 1907.

Lamoker.

Rec'd Sep. 30-1904.

Rec'd NOV 18 1907

Samokov, Bulgaria,
Nov. 2, 1907.

Rev. James L. Barton, D. D.,
Boston, Mass.,

My dear Dr. Barton,

In writing to you today I wish first of all to extend to you a word of welcome, both in behalf of the Mission and personally, on your return to your desk in Boston after your tour in China. We are thankful that God preserved you through all your long journeyings and varied experiences, and we are sure that the direct contact and personal observations which you have been enabled to have will be of great profit to the work of the Board in the Far East.

Next I have to report the receipt of various communications from the Rooms. Mr. Bell's letter of Aug. 30th came in due time, and its items in regard to the appointment of the Kennedys and the release of Dr. House to the Salonica Institute were communicated to the other stations. Yours of September 17th is also at hand dealing with the appointment of Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy and giving suggestions and instructions as to the course of action that should be taken by the Mission. We are very glad indeed that the way has been opened for the undertaking of this important work, and hope that God's richest blessing may rest upon it and upon our new associates from the very beginning. The Mission has not yet decided just what to do in regard to helping the newcomers to get established in Albania, feeling that it will be better to wait and consult with them on their arrival. It is a serious problem to know how to readjust our work so that one of our number can be spared to accompany the new family to their field of labor and assist in starting the new work. But it will probably have to be arranged somehow.

The last letter is that of Oct. 18th, from you, speaking of appropriations, reinforcements and representation in church publications. This also will be communicated as soon as possible to the other stations. I have not time to reply to it in detail today, but will say in passing that so far as I personally am concerned the explanations which you have taken the trouble to prepare so fully were not at all necessary. I realize that the Secretaries and the Board are interested in our work and desire to maintain it to the best of their ability, and are putting forth their best efforts to find men and means to do so. I realize the limitations you have and how unwelcome it must be to have to conform to those limitations. And I was not aware that there has been any general feeling in our Mission that we have been slighted and discriminated against. On the contrary, last year $500 were added to our appropriations at the expense of some other Mission. Of course, we have to express our needs, plainly, forcibly and persistently, because only in that way can we have before us the ideal for which both you and we must work. If these needs cannot be met, that is a reason for regret, but not necessarily for complaint, at least not against the Secretaries and the Prudential Committee. If there is any blame anywhere it seems to me to be in the churches, which do not respond to the Board's appeals and make it possible for the work to expand. In regard to the matter of correspondence, I accept my full share of the blame. I have not written as much as might be expected and I explain this to myself on the ground of a personal lack of the instinct for interesting news, or the ~~absence~~ real lack of such news in connection with the work of our Mission, and a lack of time. But we must all try to see if we cannot do better.

Along with this I send you one or two enclosures. The first is a copy of the circular votes that have been passed by the Mission since

Enclos. No. 2.

Extracts

its last Annual Meeting. In connection with the first vote nothing needs to be said. As to the second, it may be said that Miss Haskell has already gone to Monastir and assumed her new duties there as the matron of the orphanage. The explanations of the third vote are appended to the vote itself, but I should like to add a word or two more. It is felt that the Woman's Board is in a better position to meet the needs of the work that it maintains than the American Board is, and that it can more readily find money for an extra or special. We know that it is practically hopeless to ask the Am. Board for a special or an increase at this time. So if we are to take advantage of the opportunity now presented to us, it seems as if the money must come from the Woman's Board, and it strikes us as only fair that that Board should fully acquire by purchase property that they have been using for a number of years free of expense and which could be devoted entirely to their needs. And the opinion has been expressed that even if these outside pieces of property should not be bought, the Woman's Board should still pay for the property it uses and the proceeds be devoted to relieve some of the branches of the work of the American Board, for instance, the C. and T. I., which is in desperate circumstances. Another thing. I find that there is an opinion on the part of some of the Mission, especially the members of the Philippopolis Station, that the matter of the location of the Girls' School has not been settled, and that it is undesirable to invest any more money in Samokov. Now most of us think that the Mission settled that question for some time to come, both as to non-removal and the expenditure of money for a new building, by its vote at Annual Meeting in Salonica in 1906, (see Minutes, pg 6). The only thing that can make that decision questionable is a regulation of the Board, (which, however, I do not seem to be able to find in the handbook) requiring that all ~~votes~~ decisions involving the expenditure of money must be passed by a two-thirds vote of the Mission. I think an official word from you, giving your interpretation of the matter and stating how it is understood in Boston and by the Woman's Board, would be very timely and desirable.

It is hardly necessary at this late day, I think, to report that Miss Abbott has arrived and has greatly cheered us by her coming and the sense of reinforcement that she has given us. She is now busily engaged on the study of the language, and while regretting that she cannot at present be more actively engaged in the work that she sees waiting to be done, I think she feels that she is laying foundations for effective work in the future.

We were all very glad to have Mr. and Mrs. Hicks with us, and only regretted that they could not stay longer and become more thoroughly acquainted with the conditions of our work. We are thankful for their message of greeting and sympathy from the Prudential Committee and their assurance of hearty cooperation. I judge from your last letter that you have already heard Mr. Hick's impressions of his visit. In connection with this I may say that I promised to send a copy of a plan of the Compound to Boston. I have since learned from Dr. Clarke that there is such a copy already at the Rooms, and also explanations on the plans of certain pictures of the grounds and buildings. Still to be sure I shall have another copy made and forwarded.

Mr. Haskell is in Kortcha, having gone there on Mr. Peet's ~~ex~~ strong desire in order to assist in opening the G. B. S. All the other missionaries are at their posts. The G. B. S. here is full, and the C. & T. I. has 75 pupils. Hope to write more fully about these matters a little later.

I am sorry that I have to send you my second enclosure, but it seems necessary to do so

Cordially yours, L. F. Ostrander.

Lancaster. Pub. Nov. 2-1907.

Samokov, Nov. 6, 1907.

Dear Dr. Barton,

Rec'd Nov. 18

Last Sat., the 2nd inst., I sent you a letter with some important enclosures. An early acknowledgement of its receipt would be appreciated, because if it fails to reach you I must take steps to send you other copies of the enclosures.

I wish to add just a word to what I wrote in reply to your letter about appropriations, etc. I remember now that I asked Dr. Creegan if the Prud. Com. and the Board think that our mission pays - that it is worth while maintaining it. I asked this not because I thought that we had been unjustly treated or our appeals unsympathetically received, but simply to get an expression of opinion in view of the fact that the expediency of our mission might quite naturally be called in question because of its comparatively poor showing in results and the great needs in other parts. I assure you that my question was intended rather as a self accusation than as a complaint.

Sincerely yours, L. F. Ostrander.

...ски съюзъ. — България.

Union postale universelle. – Bulgarie.

ПОЩЕНСКА КАРТА.

CARTE POSTALE.

Rev. James L. Barton D.D.
14 Beacon St.,
Boston, Mass.,
U.S.A.

Америка

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Rec'd DEC 20 1907

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Samokov, Bulgaria,
Nov. 30, 1907.

Rev. James L. Barton, D. D.,
Boston, Mass.,

My dear Dr. Barton,

Since writing to you last, I have received your letters of Oct. 31st. and Nov. 8th, the one referring to the invitation to the Methodist Mission to co-operate with us in Sofia, and the other to your plans and desires for the conducting of the Foreign Department and for the relations between the missions and that department. Both of these letters have been communicated to the other stations of the mission. In regard to the second, I will simply say now that I think we all understand your purpose and will be pleased to co-operate with you to the best of our ability. Concerning the first, we all join with you in your wish that only good, and not evil, may result from the invitation to the Methodists to come to Sofia. I have recently had a note from Mr. Count telling me that Dr. Carroll has informed him of the decision of the Prudential Committee, and has mentioned various points in which "our mission will be pleased to co-operate with them." He promised to write more at length within a short time.

In connection with this invitation to the Methodists, I wish to refer briefly to the point in our reply to Dr. Marsh's long letter to you that deals with Mr. Count and our pastors. When I received Mr. Count's letter saying that they had not invited Mr. Setchanoff to come to their mission, I communicated its contents to Philippopolis, and said that I considered it my duty to communicate it to you also. Dr. Marsh then requested through Dr. Haskell that I should wait three or four days before writing, as he wanted to make an explanation. Instead of four days I waited at least ten days before I heard from Dr. Marsh; and by that time my letter to you was drafted. Dr. Marsh's explanation was that in the sentence in which he used the words "our pastor", he was still referring to Pastor Furnajieff, and not to Pastor Setchanoff; and that he did not mean to say that Mr. Count had invited Pastor Setchanoff, for Mr. S. himself had told him (Dr. M.) that he had applied to Mr. Count for work. I read this explanation to the station, but, after discussion, it was the opinion that my letter should remain in the form which you have seen, because the language of Dr. Marsh's letter (whatever his intention may have been) seemed to us to refer clearly to a second pastor who could be no other than Pastor Setchanoff, and to say that it referred only to Pastor Furnajieff appeared to most of us a juggling with words, or at best a misleading ambiguity which ought to be corrected. Still it would have been better and fairer to Dr. Marsh to have added a footnote to our letter saying that he had explained the matter as above stated. Of course, if he has assured you, for whom his letter was primarily written, that in his references to our pastors and Mr. Count he had in mind only Mr. Furnajieff, then our explanation of the matter is needless. If he has not, then this present statement will give you his explanation of the sentences to which we take exception.

I want to add a word more about this matter, which is purely personal and simply on my own authority. I know that Mr. Furnajieff has been given to understand that he can have work in the Methodist Mission if he wants it, for he himself has told me so. But I do not know under what circumstances he was given to understand this. We have heard a good deal about that "16 page letter from the Methodist Mission" to the same pastor, but I doubt very

much whether either Dr. Marsh or anybody else of us missionaries knows exactly what its contents were. I don't believe that any member of our mission has asked for or heard from Mr. Count his explanation of the matter. Such explanation might put things in an entirely different light from that in which we now see them. It seems to me that it is only fair and reasonable to believe that the Superintendent of our sister mission, with whom we are supposed to work in harmony for the common object of evangelizing Bulgaria, is going to act in an honorable way with us, and that we ought not to accuse him of acting otherwise until we have his own explanation of any steps that may not seem quite right to us. May it not be that Dr. Marsh is over suspicious, and that in this, as in other cases, he has come to accept his suspicions as facts which he knows?

There are one or two things that I want to write to you about today. The first of them is our C. and T. I. I wrote you in my last that we have a good number in attendance, more even than last year, and that things are going along in the usual way. But we are all overloaded with work and things are not really as they should be. The reason for this is that we are short-handed. Last commencement one of our teachers, who had been in the school 8 years, part of the time at an annual salary of $265 and the remainder of the time $290, a graduate of Allegheny College, Pa., told the Trustees that he could no longer continue to teach at that price, and when we informed him that the funds of the school did not warrant us in raising his salary, he asked me to try to find a teacher in his place. I did not know where to turn for one, nor could various others from whom I asked advice help me out. In spite of this the teacher mentioned held to his determination, and just before school opened took his departure. We again made earnest efforts to find another teacher, but could not do it; so the unprovided for work had to be arranged for by distributing parts of it to the teachers who remained and us missionaries, and by various make-shifts. This condition of affairs seems to me significant in two ways. One is, that we cannot expect to hold our teachers at the salaries which we are now paying. Two other teachers asked for an increase at the same time, and while they consented to remain on at a salary much smaller than what they asked for, they are not satisfied, and I should not be a bit surprised if they should refuse to remain another year. The second thing is that suitable candidates for teachers are very few and not at all equal to our need. Next year, as you know, we have planned to have the seventh class of the gymnasium course, and that means more teaching work. But just at that time Mr. and Mrs. Baird, who take without cost to the school funds the work of one teacher and half that of another, expect to be absent on furlough. In view of these two considerations, I figure that we shall have need of at least four more Bulgarian teachers than we now have, and at the present time I do not know where we are to look for one of them with any hope that we can find reasonably acceptable persons to fill the positions. The Protestant young men who have studied and graduated in America in all probability would not consider the work at the salaries which we offer, and there are none in Bulgaria whom we would care to invite. And then there is the ever pressing matter of funds. You may know that in our appeal this year we asked for $900 in special gifts in order to close the year 1907-08 without debt. So far as I know, about $300 have come in in answer to this appeal, including a gift of $100 from Rev. I. W. Metcalf after his visit here last spring. More than that,

since making the estimates on which that appeal was based, the cost of living has increased tremendously, and in all probability the expenses of the school will be at least $300 greater than we thought they would be. So it looks now as if we would close the school year with a good sized debt which will have to be provided for in some way. As we are not allowed to run in debt, and as we do not seem to be able to increase the funds of the school, the only conclusion is that we must curtail the expenditures, and from that it follows that we cannot carry out the plans we have made for the enlargement and improvement of the school. In this connection I wish to say a word of explanation in which Mr. Bell will be interested. Last spring, when I sent him the annual report of the C. and T. I., I asked him to have copies of extracts from it made for the use of Miss Stone and others in presenting the appeal, and told him that I hoped to send him a list of persons to whom I would like to have the report sent. I have never sent this list, because on thinking the matter over more carefully I could recall very few persons to whom such a printed statement could be sent with any hope of satisfactory results. In fact I have come to believe that a printed statement in itself accomplishes very little; it must be backed up by a personal appeal from some one interested in the project. But while the financial prospects of the Institute are not bright, I confess that this troubles me less than the paucity of available teachers; for without a teaching force we cannot carry on the school, and if we are not going to be in a position to go on in this respect, are we justified in making constant and earnest appeals for more money? For me it is a difficult and perplexing problem. In your last letter you asked us to take you into our confidence. You see I am doing so, and I mean to do so even more. In his notes on Gideon's Band in the Sunday School Times, Mr. Pierson writes:- "It is true that our missionary work calls for more men and more money, but most of all there is need of more faith, more prayer, more courage, and more absolute obedience to the will of God." I thoroughly agree with this, and from this point of view I feel that the present head of the C. and T. I. leaves much to be desired. It seems to me that to make this school what it ought to be there is need of a Müller, a Barnardo, a Moody; of one who can accomplish great material things simply through faith in God: and I know that I am not of that stamp. If there were only someone available for the place who has this power with God, how glad I would be to see him take the position and to co-operate with him in every way I could. But at present there does not seem to be any such person, and so I shall go on doing the best I can, although I know that that best comes far below what is desirable. Please don't think that I am writing this hastily, in a moment of discouragement. I have been thinking of it for a long time, and have prayed over it too, (though not as much as I should have); and I consider it my duty to let you know just what I think about it. Please use your own judgment about showing this and other parts of my letter to any one else than Mr. Bell.

The second point that I want to speak about is the salaries of native workers. I have already told you how we have recently lost one of our teachers because of inadequate salary. Mr. Setchanoff has gone to Lovetch, in the Methodist Mission, partly because outside of Philippopolis, Sofia, and our schools, no place in Bulgaria could offer him a salary on which he could decently support and educate his family. Another pastor, Mr. Petranoff, who has been in the work many years, left the pastorate early this fall to take charge of the Evangelical reading-room and lodging house in Sofia. At one time he

had a house in Yambul, but he sold that in order to educate his children, and having about $100 left, he wished to employ this money in such a way as to enable his daughter to finish her course of study at the Sofia school for drawing. At the recent meeting of the eastern Conference it was arranged for this brother to return to the pastorate, and they have left Sofia, the daughter, as I understand it, giving up her course of study. A letter received today from a mutual friend says that this pastor is in great financial straits. Mr.Christoff, a former pastor in Yambul, went to America some three years and a half ago partly because of the inadequate financial support given him, took a course in Allegheny Seminary and is now a home missionary in North Dakota. A former preacher in Pirdope, who had taken the course at Auburn Seminary, after his marriage two years ago went to America because he felt that he could not live on the salary offered him here, and is now a preacher in Pennsylvania, I think. These are facts in the work of our mission since I joined it less than six years ago. And it will not be strange if others are compelled to leave the work. Living in Bulgaria today is at least 40% higher on the average than it was two years ago; and yet the salaries which our workers receive are little, if any, larger than they were then, when they were supposed to be barely sufficient. Mr. Terzieff, our pastor and teacher here in Samokov, with a family of five children and an annual salary of $420, says that he is already some $70 in debt ~~in his accounts~~ for this school year. When I was in the Seminary I remember that Dr. Knox, of Union Seminary, gave us an address on his experiences and impressions as a missionary in Japan, and among other things he said that for him one of the most difficult problems was the adjustment and reconciliation of missionary and native salaries. I have many times recalled his remarks and experienced the same feelings and difficulties. When we (Mrs. Ostrander and myself), without children and living in a careful way, were able out of a salary of $880 a year to lay by only the $42 which we put annually into life insurance, aside from the amount which we give for benevolent purposes, the wonder to me is how our pastors, with families of two, three, four, or five children, manage to get along at all on salaries of $285 or $315, which is about the average amount that they get, even when the churches pay up regularly, as they often don't. I know that there is a difference in the standard of living and the things we have been accustomed to, but it seems to me that the difference in our salaries is not a proportional one, and I, for one, find it very hard to urge greater consecration on our native workers while there are such discrepancies in our salaries. It takes a good deal of consecration to work at all on such salaries, and it seems to be coming to the point when it will be impossible to continue to work on such terms. The same problem is facing us here that has become acute in many parts of America, and in my opinion we may be compelled to solve it by giving up some of our preaching places and paying the preachers whom we retain something more like a living salary. We would like most of all to see the churches themselves reach the point where they could and would support their pastors more liberally, but unfortunately that day has not yet arrived and its coming does not seem to be encouragingly near.

The principal item of news at the present moment is one which you already doubtless have direct from Salonica. It is to the effect that the Turkish government refuses to give permission to Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy to travel anywhere in the interior, and so their immediate departure for Albania is utterly

impossible. As is natural, they are much disappointed by this turn of events, but are trying to make the best of the situation and have already begun the study of Albanian. Of course the whole case has been reported to the Embassy at Constantinople and to Mr. Peet, and it now remains to be seen what diplomatic measures will be able to accomplish. Mr. Haskell is back in Salonica, but I have not heard definitely whether he was able to open the school in Kortcha permanently or not.

The annual fall meeting of our Central, or Samokov, Conference was held in the village of Kostenets, about 20 miles from Samokov, Nov. 7-10. It was small in point of numbers in attendance, and not very important in the way of routine work accomplished; but it was interesting and helpful in its public meetings and services, and proved to be a great encouragement to the little Protestant community of the place. The morning and afternoon services on Sunday were attended by audiences numbering over 120. Three earnest, active young people were received into church membership. The Eastern Conference also held its fall meeting at the same time, but I have heard no details of its proceedings.

Pastor Furnajieff has removed from Haskovo after a year of service there, and has gone to Philippopolis to take the place of Pastor Setchanoff. The problem now is, how shall the Haskovo church be provided with a pastor.

Mrs. Dr. Haskell recently wrote to Mrs. Ostrander:-"Mr. Shopoff (the Protestant mayor of Philippopolis) at the request of the Bishop, had a conference with four priests and four prominent laymen lately to consider what could be done to make Orthodox services more profitable and to get people to attend the churches. There is to be another meeting, at which the Bishop will preside, to consider further these questions. Prominent officials are to be invited to attend it. We must pray that the Holy Spirit will visit these hearts and the movement not be simply a political one. The Bishop is alarmed at the small attendance at church. If our church were crowded it would be encouraging, but there is great indifference to religion among the people." May this not be another indication of the desire for a more vital religion that is manifesting itself in many ways at present in bulgaria in the communion of the Orthodox church? A young priest in a village near Samokov has invited one of our teachers to come and conduct a night school in his village twice a week during the winter, and he himself is preaching regularly to his people. The local church authorities have tried to curb him, threatening to send him to a monastery if he does not stop preaching and reading the scriptures in Bulgarian; but he says that he cannot and will not stop.

Miss Haskell writes from Monastir that she now has the work of the orphanage well in hand and is finding great satisfaction in it.

All the members of our station are enjoying their usual health, which with some, however, is not as robust as we would like to have it, and all unite in sending heary greetings to you of the Foreign Department.

Very sincerely yours,

L. F. Ostrander.

Konstantinopel Pol. Nov 30-1907.

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Rec'd APR 8 1908

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Samokov, Bulgaria,
March 24, 1908.

Rev. Enoch F. Bell,
Boston, Mass.,

My dear Mr. Bell,

In the note which accompanied the statistics about the C. and T. I. forwarded to Dr. Barton a few weeks ago, I said that I would try to write to him more fully about the school after the annual spring meeting of the Trustees, which was soon to be held. Well, that meeting is now over, and the action taken by it makes it imperative that I should not delay in carrying out the above mentioned suggestion or promise.

Before I give you the action of the Trustees it may be well to report some previous deliberations and actions in connection with the school. I wrote you last fall giving you my views as to the prospects for another year and my opinion of the seriousness of the situation. This appeared so serious and important to the local Trustees that we felt we could not wait until the regular spring meeting to talk things over with the non-resident Trustees and influential Bulgarian friends, and so it was decided that I should go to Philippopolis during the Christmas vacation and have a consultation with the missionaries and the Bulgarian friends there. This I did after making a tour of five days into the mountains to visit our outstation Ludjene, where I held a series of special meetings. In Philippopolis we gave the best part of a whole day almost exclusively to the situation of the school, Drs. Haskell and Marsh, Pastor Furnajieff and Mayor Shopoff and Pastor Georgieff, one of the Bulgarian Trustees, being present. We canvassed the situation and prospects pretty thoroughly, and came to these conclusions:- In view of the expected absence of Rev. and Mrs. Baird on furlough next year, and of the plan of having a seventh class in the scientific course, we shall need at least three more Bulgarian teachers than we have at present, even if the ones now with us remain. 2) It seems that there are no available candidates at present in Bulgaria whom we could cordially invite to take these positions, having in mind, as we must have, the needs of the entire work of the mission. 3) The principal should communicate with various Bulgarian young men now in America and learn from them if there is any possibility of their being obtained as teachers for next year, and report the result of his inquiries to the spring meeting of the Trustees.

These latter instructions were carried out, and the report which I gave at the recent Trustee meetings in brief is as follows:- Of the five young men to whom I wrote, four gave prompt replies, but the other has not yet been heard from. Two, while expressing appreciation of the opportunity of considering the matter of becoming teachers with us and saying that they hope they may do so at some future time, were obliged to decline for the present because they intend to pursue their studies in America for one or more years more. Another says he would be willing to come, but makes certain conditions in regard to chemical and physical equipment for teaching with which we cannot comply, and asks a minimum salary of $1000 (227 liras, while the largest salary we now pay to any Bulgarian teacher is 130 liras.) The fourth says that he would be willing to come, and I think that if the whole matter were properly set before him he would consent to come for a salary that we could conscienticusly offer him- if we have it to give.

Well, that is not much progress, still it is something. The situation

was again carefully discussed, and some additional light obtained. One suggestion that seemed quite practicable was that we might find some Bulgarian speaking Jew to take charge of the French department, which would provide for one of the needed teachers. Several other names were suggested of persons who might possibly be obtained from America. Somehow or other I feel that the Lord will help us to find teachers with whom we can carry on the work of the school in a reasonably satisfactory manner.

Then, of course, we had to consider the finances of the school. We were glad to be able to report that, thanks to the strict economy we have practised this year and the using of our available strength to the utmost, we hope to close the school year with the debt greatly reduced and possibly wiped out entirely. Special gifts of $450--500 have made this possible. But to carry on the school another year with only the present paid force of teachers and on the present basis of expenditure calls for at least 100 liras more than the estimated income of the school, without special gifts; then there are the three additional teachers that must be provided for if the plans of enlargement and advancement are to be carried out, and it is not at all likely that they can be obtained for salaries, on an average, less than 80 liras a year. As a result of our deliberations we voted to inform the Annual Meeting of the Mission that the income of the C. and T. I. for 1908-09 must be increased at least 350 liras over its income as at present estimated, failing in which we recommend THAT THE SCHOOL BE REDUCED TO ONE OF FIVE CLASSES.

Mr. Bell, we MUST have that money, and I believe the Lord is going to provide it for us. Not to go forward, but on the other hand to take such a backward step as to reduce our school to five classes when we have had six for nearly twenty years, would, I fear, be only the first system of the death agony. I dont believe that the school ought to die. It may not be and do all that it ought to be and do, but I am sure that it has a mission to perform for these people, and that its influence is and would continue to be one that is greatly needed in these parts. In order that you may understand this point more fully, and also something of our needs, I want to quote from two of the letters received in reply to my inquiries, both of the writers having formerly been students in our school:-

"At any rate be assured that I am fully conscious of the fact that Bulgaria needs trained men of character and sound, thorough scholarship, men who can combat the half-baked "European" university sophists on their own ground, posit sound arguments against subtle fallacies, show up those treacherous fallacies and the irrational atheism to light, and point out the truly intelligent way to the blindly groping Bulgarian intelligenzia. This is the class of men that enlightened religion must get hold of before it can occupy its proper place in the shaping of the nation's affairs. And it is this desire to be able to do first-class work and make the most worthwhile contribution to Balkan humanity by my life that makes me answer your kind favor the way I do" (Referred for the present).

"Together with many others who were at one time or another at Samokov, I earnestly desire it were possible to build up and maintain a strong and influential school for Bulgarian boys-strong intellectually and morally, and permeated with the best American spirit and tradition that make for uprightness, progressiveness and vigorous vitality; a school that would have a national reputation for turning out scholars and characters. At a time when our unfortunate country needs above all men of elementary virtues, character and integ-

ity, men of thoroughness and sound sense, and when the national schools seem pitifully impotent to meet this demand, it is deeply to be regretted that the lack of funds should make it impossible to undertake such a great task".

"I wish to make it clear that in no case would it be possible for me to teach either chemistry or physics unless the school makes suitable provisions for fitting up a small chemical labaratory with the necessary simple apparatus and reagents, and individual desks for the students to do their laboratory work. The same holds true for physics, except that here the same apparatus serves for all the students. Teaching science without the indispensable provisions for individual laboratory work by the students is utterly out of date in these days; it had much better be taught not at all than dabbled into in the unscientific fashion which was in vogue when I was at the Samokov school". (And it must be confessed that there has been very little improvement in the way of apparatus and facilities.)

As bearing on the general situation and problem before us, I would like to refer you to my letter to Dr. Barton under date of Feb. 4, 1905, which doubtless must be on file in the Rooms though you personally may not have seen it. *We are trying to carry out at present some of the proposals of that letter.*

I write to you thus early and without delay because we think it very desirable that we should have some word from Boston for our guidance in the consideration of this matter at our annual meeting, which will be held in Philippopolis beginning four weeks from today, April 21st. Can you give us any encouragement that the sum we need will be forthcoming? What suggestions would you make as to our course of action? Would we be allowed to present our need to Congregationalists in a special appeal; for instance, would I be free to lay the matter frankly before the people of Porter Church, Brockton, and ask them to help us out? We shall be most thankful for any suggestions or advice, and I am sure that we shall have your prayerful sympathy. Please send me some word at the earliest possible moment, and it will be best to address any letter to me that will reach me before the end of April in care of Dr. H. C. Haskell, Philippopolis.

Your letter of March 6th telling of the decision of the Prudential Committee about the insurance of property in the Turkish Missions was received yesterday and has been communicated to the other stations. We hope that Dr. Barton will receive great benefit from his well earned vacation. The same mail brought a letter from Miss Wingate, of Chicago, communicating the vote of their executive committee to request our mission to take up again at the coming annual meeting the question of the advisability of removing the Girls' School from Samokov, which question was decided in the negative two years ago this spring at our annual meeting.

I take it for granted that Salonica and Monastir stations keep you posted on the development of the Albanian matter, and of the way in which Messrs Haskell and Clarke have in turn held the fort in Kortcha. Saturday night we received a telegram from Salonica informing us that the Kennedys are to go to Kortcha this week, and a letter from Mr. Haskell this morning tells us that they will probably reach there on Thursday. Our sympathies go out to these new members of our mission, and especially to Mrs. Kennedy, whose departure from Salonica and entrance upon the scene of her work are saddened by the announcement of the death of her mother, Mrs. Bond, in whom our whole mission has lost a much loved fellow laborer and loyal friend.

There is one other thing to which I wish to refer briefly in this letter. In one or two communications previously acknowledged Dr. Barton has referred to the fact that he has been unable to have a conference with the Methodist Bishop who has charge of the work in Bulgaria, and so has not yet concluded the agreement as to the joint occupancy of Sofia. I should hope that the matter can be arranged in one way or another before very long, for this uncertainty puts some of us over here in a rather embarassing position and may lead to unpleasant consequences. From some letters from Mr. Count which I have seen, it would appear that he has been given to understand, both by Sec. Carroll and by Bishop Burt, that the matter of their going to Sofia has been decided and that the way is now fully open for them to go. Mr. Count quoted from a letter from Bishop Burt to himself words to this effect:- "I understand that the American Board removes all objections and invites us to Sofia. Now then, send in the best man you can find and secure a call for him as soon as possible." I have communicated the statements of Dr. Barton about not being able as yet to conclude the agreement with the Methodist Board to Mr. Count, but he does not seem to think that that fact makes any difference. He has referred to the points of co-operation which Dr. Barton has mentioned in conducting the negociations, and has expressed his agreement with them and his belief that there can be hearty co-operation along these lines; but at the same time he has expressly stated that these suggestions cannot be considered conditions, or points of agreement, the acceptance or rejection of which could affect their going to Sofia. If I understand him correctly, he claims that the American Board has no right to make any conditions, as the Methodists have the right to be in Sofia and are not there simply out of deference to our wishes. The removal of our objections and the extending of the invitation settle the matter for him entirely without regard to any conditions, and it does not even come under the jurisdiction of their Board of Bishops, because going to Sofia is not opening up work in a new mission, or country, but simply extending it in a country already occupied, and so under the direction of the Bishop who has charge of that country. On some of these points, in view of what Dr. Barton has written us so explicitly about "points of agreement which must be approved by the two Boards", some of us are not of the same mind with Mr. Count, and so it seems very desirable that there should be a definite and authoritative settlement of the case as soon as possible in order to avoid embarassing situations. If this could come before the close of our annual meeting it would be of great assistance to us in deciding things that will have to be brought up for action. For instance, joint publication is conditioned by the Methodists on their being in Sofia; and so it is evident that we can make no final arrangement with them on that point until we know that our Board has definitely settled the question of their going there. We understand that Mr. Count has been given a leave of absence of six months to visit America with his family, and possibly you may see him in Boston. I wonder if you have received a record of the Third European Congress of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Sept.4th-8th, 1907. It contains a paper by Mr. Count on "Methodism and the Greek Church", which I confess is somewhat of a disappointment to me when taken in connection with the proposed point of agreement that in Sofia "they shall not press denominationalism, but that they shall work with us on the basis of Christianity."

With cordial regards and all good wishes, I remain,

Yours sincerely, L. F. Ostrander.

There is one other thing to which I wish to refer briefly in this let-
In one or two communications previously acknowledged Dr. Barton has re-
to the fact that he has been unable to have a conference with the Me-
t Bishop who has charge of the work in Bulgaria, and so has not yet
had the agreement as to the joint occupancy of Sofia. I should hope
the matter could be arranged in one way or another before very long,
is urgently need of a over lap or a rather embarrassing posi-
tion to find ourselves occupying the same field as the Methodists from the
nation. We would, of course, be glad to have your views to understand,
Dear Carroll, in this, as in other matters of close relation to
this from beginning to end. [illegible]

Count [illegible] "Methodism and the Greek Church" which I
[illegible] a paper by Mr. [illegible]
[illegible] a somewhat of a disappointment to me when taken in connection with
[illegible] point of agreement that in Sofia "they shall not press doctri-
nal [illegible], but that they shall work with us on the basis of Christianity."

With cordial regards and all good wishes, I remain,

Yours sincerely, J. F. Goucher

Rec'd APR 21 1908

Samokov, Bulgaria,

April 6, 1908.

Rev. Enoch F. Bell,

Boston, Mass.,

My dear Mr. Bell,

In reply to your letter of March 24th, received this morning, I would say that the reason why there is no recorded vote of our Mission in regard to the return of Miss Elizabeth C. Clarke is that such votes are taken at the Annual Meeting of the Mission which comes after a person's furlough has actually begun. There has been no meeting of the Mission since Miss Clarke left last August, so no such vote has been possible; but the matter will be acted upon at our coming meeting, which begins two weeks from tomorrow. If an expression of private opinion will be of any value, I will say that in my mind there is not the slightest doubt that the Mission will cordially invite Miss Clarke to return and resume her very valuable work in Sofia.

I am also in receipt of your letter and the blanks asking for statistics about our industrial work. I am afraid that we shall not be able to prepare the answers until after the approaching Annual Meeting, as we are all greatly rushed with work just now, but in due time you shall have them. I hope that you have received the answers to the general questions about the C. and T. I. which I sent you some weeks ago, and that I am not needlessly in your black books as among the number who do not furnish required statistics.

I wish also to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of March 17th reporting several minutes of the Prudential Committee.

With cordial greetings, I remain,

Very sincerely yours, L. F. Ostrander.

Rec'd APR 21 1908

Samokov, Bulgaria,

April 6, 1908.

Rev. Enoch F. Bell,

Boston, Mass.,

My dear Mr. Bell,

I regret very much indeed to inform you, that I have been very busy, I would say, since the receipt of your letter of March 17th, in preparing the answers until after the approaching Annual Meeting, as we are all greatly rushed with work just now, but in due time you will have them. I hope that you have received the answers to the General Questions about the C. and T. I. which I sent you some weeks ago, and that I am not needlessly in your black books as among the number who do not furnish required statistics.

I wish also to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of March 17th reporting several minutes of the Prudential Committee.

With cordial greetings, I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

L. F. Waterman.

Alexander
Samuel Cyr. Bul. Apr. 6 1908.

Rec'd MAY 23 1908

Samokov, Bulgaria,
May 9th, 1908.

Rev. James L. Barton, D. D.,
Boston, Mass.,

My dear Dr. Barton,

The documents of our recent Annual Meeting are now all ready and collected, and I herewith enclose copies of all that you expect to receive: tabular views, minutes and letter to the Rooms, estimates for 1909, and reports from the various stations and branches of the work. I hope that everything will be received in good shape and will be found to be satisfactory.

We had a very good meeting, marked on the whole by a spirit of harmony and brotherly co-operation. The Christian fellowship which we had was especially helpful and encouraging. To be sure, it was a rather strenuous and tiring period of ten days, and I think the records will show you that we got through a lot of work, and did it thoroughly, too.

Before speaking of the subject for which I am especially responsible, I may refer briefly to one or two other things.

In drawing up the Letter to the Rooms, I think Dr. Haskell has forgotten to mention one point that was ~~XXXXXXX~~ spoken of for reference in the letter. It was in connection with the letter to Secretary Root in regard to American Interests in Turkey, and was to the effect that it should be suggested to the Secretaries in Boston that the passage of the American Pacific squadron through the Suez canal might offer a favorable opportunity to show Turkey that American treaty rights can not be trifled with. As missionaries on the field we did not feel that it would be the wisest and best thing for us to make such a suggestion directly to the State Department. We preferred to leave it to your judgment.

The other thing is in regard to the removal of the Samokov G. B. S. On pg. 7 of the minutes you will find a vote which instructs the delegate of the Mission to the annual meeting of the Bulgarian Evangelical Society to get a written, personal opinion from the members of the society present at the meeting on the question of said removal: this expression of opinion to be transmitted to the W. B. M. I. along with the vote of the Mission. The above mentioned meeting took place immediately after ours; in fact, overlapped it a little, so that our delegate, Mr. Holway, was late in reaching it, and found it impossible to execute his instructions in a satisfactory way. So this expression of opinion is not ready, and I do not think it will be wise to delay the transmission of the Mission's vote because of it. Possibly it may be obtained by a circular vote among the leading members, or the matter may be taken up during the summer at the Summer School and Jubilee.

Coming now to the subject of the C. and T. I., you will find the action that the Mission took at the bottom of page 3 and the top of page 4 of the minutes, and the reference to the same subject in the Letter to the Rooms on pages 2 and 3. We think that both these statements put the matter about as strongly as language can, but in order that we might do our utmost to express ourselves in "irristible language" (to use Mr. Bell's phrase) the meeting, by an informal vote, authorized the following to be communicated to you in addition to the above mentioned statements:

The C. and T. I. of this Mission has been in almost continous operation for more than 45 years. It was founded while Bulgaria was still under Turkish rule. During the last 25 years it has been in competition with

the progressive national system of education in the new Principality of Bulgaria, and has been left behind in the race. Three years ago steps were inaugurated to improve and enlarge it with the purpose of making it equal to the state schools of the same grade. It was hoped and expected that the funds necessary for these improvements would be forthcoming. These hopes have been only partially fulfilled, and that through special gifts from year to year; and the assured income of the school is utterly inadequate to its needs. We therefore would call special attention to the action of the Mission to the effect that the income of the Institute must be increased annually by at least £t350 or the school be reduced to one of five classes. We do not wish even to consider the possibility of such a reduction. It would be a serious blow to the reputation and progress of the Protestant cause all through the field of our Mission; it would be a disastrous step for the school itself, and in all probability would mean its speedy dying out; it would result in a serious, and perhaps irreparable, setback to the cause of evangelical education among the nation, which, first of all the Slavic peoples, received Christianity and gave it to its neighbors and which seems destined to play an important role in the fuller evangelization of the Slavic countries which surround it. Surely there should be at least one Evangelical Institute for the higher education of Bulgarian youths among the Bulgarian population of 6,000,000 in the Principality and Macedonia, at least one Institution, positively Christian in character, fully manned and properly equipped. Our school can be made such an Institution; the foundations are already laid; the classrooms are full of students: but it must be more fully manned and more adequately equipped in order to take its proper place of influence and leadership. Therefore we plead that we may not be compelled to take the threatened backward step; we entreat that the money called for may be guaranteed us, and the forward movement of the school assured.

I am sure that you will take all these things under special and careful consideration, and if you can give us some word as to what we may expect or as to what we may be allowed to do by the 25th of June, it would be greatly appreciated. We are going to go ahead on faith, for we believe that God is not going to let this school die out. If the Prudential Committee could agree to let Mr. Baird's salary remain for the time when he is on furlough and be applied to the school, that would be a great lift. He and Mrs. Baird have 27 hours a week of teaching in the school between them, and the money for their salary could very properly be used in paying others to take their place. Could it not be managed?

By dint of strong urging on the part of Mrs. Ostrander, now in Constantinople on a visit, Dr. Harlan Beach was persuaded to turn aside on his trip through Bulgaria and visit us in Samokov. He was here from 8 one evening until 9:20 the next morning, and we were very glad to see him and got many helpful suggestions from him. His statemet, however, that rich business men would not give money for schools in Samokov because of its isolated position away from the railroad was rather discouraging, in view of our Mission action about the G.B.S. If he is correct in this, it seems to me a very important consideration.

I wish hereby gratefully to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Bell's letter of the 10th ult. and yours of the 21st ult. The statements in regard to the Industrial Department will soon be forwarded to you.

With cordial greetings and best regards from all the Mission, I am,

Sincerely yours. L. F. Ostrander.

Personal letter
from the Secretary.

A. F. Ostrander

Dearborn-Paul

Dec 19-1908.

Rec'd NOV 2 1908

Samokov, Bulgaria,
Oct. 16, 1908.

Rev. James L. Barton, D. D.,
Boston, Mass.,
My dear Dr. Barton,

It has been a long time since I sent any communication to the Rooms, and the things that I would naturally write about are now, to a great extent, rather ancient history. But before passing to what I may find to say, I shall acknowledge the receipt of various official communications from yourself and Mr. Bell. The list is a long one, and I shall not attempt to refer to all the letters by date, but I think that you can rest assured that all your communications have been received. Most of them have already been transmitted to the different stations, and the others are on the way. We are very glad indeed that you sent us the copies of your recent letters to Mr. Kennedy, for they gave us needed light on some rather difficult and perplexing questions. For example, we have just received a circular vote started from Kortcha proposing that Mr. Ericson should be located in Northern Albania, thus making a separate branch, if not a separate station. In view of what you wrote in the second of your letters to Mr. Kennedy, I shall now have no trouble in voting for the negative of this proposition. I agree with you that our new brethren in Albania seem inclined to rush things a little too much.

A number of circular votes have gone around since annual meeting, and I understand that the results of several of them have been reported directly to you by those whom they most directly concerned. I enclose a copy of the substance, or more essential parts, of these votes. Please notice especially the note appended to the vote in regard to the furlough of Mrs. Marsh.

I also enclose a copy of a protest that most of the members of the Mission felt should be sent to Dr. Marsh. I think it explains itself; and as you have a copy of his first letter which so wounded the feelings of some of the members of the Mission, nothing more need be said other than that the second letter was even stronger in some respects than the first one.

And now for a little news. It is very late in the day to report it, and you probably have already learned it from Mr. Wiggin, as part of the information gained from his visit here, or from Mr. Baird, but nevertheless, I want to call your attention to the fact that at the last semi-annual accounting of the station, C. and T. I.'s account went in <u>without a debt</u>. If I am not mistaken, this is the first time that this has happened since I have been in Samokov, and is a cause for great thanksgiving and satisfaction. It was made possible by some special gifts, by increased receipts from the students and by most careful and economical administration, making use of every possible help that could be applied to the school, in carrying out its larger plans, without cost to the funds of the school. Now if there can only be a favorable consideration and decision in regard to our appeal for extra help for this school year, so that we may be able to maintain the position we have reached, and carry out our plans without again going into debt, we shall indeed be most grateful.

Although we had no graduating exercises last June, because there were no students who had taken the full course according to the new program, yet the public exercises given by the Girls' School, and the concert by the Choral Society made a very satisfactory wind-up for the school year. During the summer we advertised our school as "The American Gymnasium", and largely as a result of this, I think, we had applications from and voted to receive more students than ever before. For some reason or other, more than usual of those who have been voted in have failed to come, and yet at the present time we have

an enrollment of 76, which is a slight gain over the enrollment at the same date last year. 67 of these are boarders, and that number taxes our present accommodations just about to the limit. The Girls' School also has a good attendance, though not quite as large as last year. We solved the difficulty of finding the extra teachers made necessary by the enlargement of our course and the absence of the Bairds. Two young men have come back from America, one of them a graduate from Howard University and the other from Park College, and for French we have secured the services of a young Jewish teacher. All of the new helpers are working in well, and promise to be satisfactory. The responsibility resting upon us now is to find the money to pay their salaries.

At the beginning of the year we started out with the full gymnasium course of seven classes, with four students enrolled for the seveth class. We felt a good deal of satisfaction in being able to call our school, at last, "The American Gymnasium". but last week three of the members left the school, one of them for reasons best known to himself, and the other two in order to go to America, having received help for this purpose from Mr. Count, of the Methodist Mission, after they had deposited their church membership in that Mission. This practically breaks up the seventh class, for the other student is not fully regular, not taking the mathematical subjects, and so we cannot say that we have the full gymnasium course, although it is very nearly that. This is a great disappointment to us, for it may be a great hindrance in the way of taking steps towards securing recognition. I wish to write you more fully on this point, and until you get a second letter, please reserve your final judgment on Mr. Count's action in this connection.

You wonder what the effect of the political changes in Turkey has been upon Bulgaria. Up to within two weeks ago, it might be said that it had hardly produced any noticeable effect. The new situation in Turkey was regarded with a great deal of interest, but it was taken, on the whole, decidedly calmly. We saw nothing of the demonstrations of satisfaction and joy that were so wonderful across the border. Like everybody else, we could hardly believe that these things were true, and we, too, were rejoiced by the marvellous change. This fall visits were interchanged between officers and citizens resident in this part of Bulgaria and those in neighboring cities of Turkey such as Mehomia and Djumia in the Razlog district; and the utmost cordiality and good fellowship were shown on every hand, almost without exception. Two companies of such visitors came to Samokov, and on the second occasion I was invited to attend a banquet given in their honor at the officers'club. It was a most interesting affair, with cordial speeches on both side, songs and toasts. As an indication of the change of feeling and of conditions, two lieutenants who commanded the opposing forces in a frontier skirmish last February were both present and heartily took part in the festivities. Two weeks ago Bulgaria proclaimed her absolute independence of Turkey. It was a momentous step, taken at an inopportune time when the interests of the neww regime in Turkey are considered, and we cannot wholly approve of Bulgaria's action in the matter. It has been the cause of great rejoicing, in which we can honestly join, and in which we were officially invited to join. I was appointed (because of my position as director of the school) one of the members of a committee of five which arranged the program for the public celebration, and this indicates a great change of feeling towards us. Thus far everything is going along peaceably and apparently the same as before the proclamation; and we earnestly hope that ~~xxx~~ an armed conflict in these regions may be avoided.

With cordial greetings and the assurance that we have been remembering you especially in our prayers during the Annual Meeting, I remain,

Very sincerely yours, L. F. Ostrander.

Mr. & Mrs. Alexander
Samsborr -
Oct. 16 - 1908

Rec'd JUN 13 1908

Samokov, Bulgaria,
June 6th, 1908.

Rev. James L. Barton, D. D.,
Boston, Mass.,
My dear Dr. Barton,

I herewith enclose the reports prepared by Mr. Baird and Mr. Thomson in regard to the way in which the Rockefeller gift for the industrial department of the C. and T. I. has been used, in accordance with the request in your letter of April 21st. I hope the information is full enough and that it will prove satisfactory.

I feel that I must say a word in regard to the use of part of the funds for the Carpentry Department. You may remember that some two years ago I strongly urged that part of this gift should be used for the purpose of getting an experienced teacher of carpentry and manual training in woodwork to come out here from America and put the department on an up-to-date basis, as far as possible, and that I even had quite a good deal of correspondence with Mr. James C. Clarke on the subject. In this proposal I was not supported either by a majority of the Trustees or by Mr. Baird, who has been the superintendent of the department for the last four years, so it was dropped, and comparatively little has been done in the way of permanent improvements or equipment. Some of the expenditures indicated in the accompanying report do not have my approval, and I have so expressed myself here in regard to them; therefore the responsibility for them must rest upon Mr. Baird. You will understand, of course, that I do not mean to say that the expenditures in themselves were not necessary and justifiable, for they were that; only I do not think it was allowable for us make them from this particular fund in view of the conditions on which the gift was made. I may be mistaken in this and I hope I am. Anyway you will soon have a chance to talk it all over with Mr. Baird personally and he can give you any further information and explanations that you may desire. In this connection I will add only this, that our department in this line can hardly be called an "Industrial" department. It is really a self-help department, as we do not pretend to give scientific and regular courses in the trade taught in the two shops.

I have also to acknowledge the receipt since I last wrote of letters from the Rooms under date of Apr. 28th, May 1st, May 4th, May 13, and May 15th. All of these have been duly copied and forwarded to the other stations of the Mission. We greatly appreciate the generousity of the Prudential Committee in providing for sending a delegate to the meeting of the Western Turkey Mission. Dr. Haskell has been chosen and expects to go. We regret that Mr. Wiggin cannot give more time to Bulgaria, and especially that he cannot come to Samokov. We should greatly appreciate his advice in regard to questions of buildings and repairs which are very puzzling to us. I think it absolutely essential that some influential and experienced member of the Committee should investigate thoroughly the present condition of the Board's buildings here in Samokov, and when would it be easier and more economical than during this trip of Mr. Wiggin's?

I hope you have safely received the document of our last annual meeting which I mailed you on May 9th in a registered package.

Very sincerely yours, L. F. Ostrander.

Samokov, Bul. June 6-1908.

JUN 18 1908

Samokov, Bulgaria.

Industrial Department: Printing Establishment.

In the course of 1905 & 1906 we spent on new type for the composing-room and additional fittings for the printing-press the sum of — $ 1697.74

The whole of what we received from Mr Rockefeller's gift was applied towards meeting this expense, namely, — $ 1206.39

Excess spent by us, — $ 491.35

During 1907

22 Students worked in the Establishment, and earned a total of $612.08, or an average of $27.82.

There were printed:—

1,698,116	pages of Mission works
850,400	" " works by private persons
17,020	impressions of Job work.
2,565,536	Total pages.

R. Thomson.

6th June, 1908.

In file with Rockefeller Fund

REC'D JUN 18 1908

Carpentry Department of the Samokov Collegiate and Theological Institute in a/c with the Rockefeller Fund.

		Pias. pure	Dr.
1905	To amount credited from the Rockefeller Fund	39773	
1906	Less " transferred to Printing Department	10373	29400 pias. $1293.60

Per Contra

1905	To Repairs on building	140	
"	" Erecting shed for lumber	1699	1839
1906	" Tools from America	1677	
	" " bought here	530	2207
	" Lumber " at various times	3407	
	" Keeping water power in repair	176	
	" Cloth for chair bottoms	522	4105
	" part of salary of foreman instructor for 3 years	5558	
	" Debt of department Dec 15, 1904	1535	
	" Balance on hand Dec. 16, 1907 $622.88/100	14156	29400 pias

Samokov May 27, 1907. J. H. Baird.

Since 1904 this department has had no financial aid from the school funds, nor from the Board nor from any friend in or out of Bulgaria, — only as it has been compelled to draw from this fund.

The overloaded program of studies we have (the national) will not permit making industrial work obligatory for any student, so it is elective and generally 3–6 hours per week. The work done is paid for at a rate equal to what it could be done for outside and in some instances higher. A very small per cent of the students look forward to engaging in after life, in any kind of woodwork. They

work mainly to get money to eke out their slender funds. Many of them have neither the strength nor the skill for hand sawing or for planing, and can only do kinds of work whose product sells for less than is paid them for doing it.

Work in the printing department is preferred to carpentry by them because easier learned, less tiring, a nobler employment and more lucrative.

There is little demand for chairs and other articles of furniture as Austrian but wood furniture undersells things made here and getting pay for things ~~bought~~ sold has been rather discouraging.

I do not believe this department can be made self supporting including the salary of the foreman-teacher. Even should there be a good sale for all that can be made by our students the department cannot be made a financial success.

J. H. Paine.

Rec'd DEC 2 1908

Ostrander

78

Samokov, Oct. 31, 1908.

Rev. James L. Barton, D. D.,
Boston, Mass.,

(See page 4 in connection with this page.)

My dear Dr. Barton,

In my letter to you of some two weeks ago I enclosed a copy of a Protest that the large majority of our mission felt obliged to send to Dr. Marsh. Even before I mailed my letter to you, we were in receipt of another epistle from Dr. Marsh similar in character to the two previous ones mentioned in the protest, and perhaps even stronger in some respects than they were; but as the other stations of the mission had not yet seen it, I thought it best not to refer to it at the time. Since then, however, we have heard from Philippopolis and Salonica, where the affair is deeply regretted; and Dr. and Mrs. Haskell feel very strongly, as do the ~~other~~ members of our Samokov station, that you should see the whole text of this letter and take it under consideration along with our protest. I have, therefore, made a copy of it and enclose it herewith. I also send a copy of Mr. Holway's remarks in reply to some of the points raised in Dr. Marsh's letter, which remarks were sent around with the circular vote. With these in hand I think you will need no further explanation of the matter other than the statement that Mr. Holway, as chairman of the Zornitsa committee, was simply following out the instructions of the last Annual Meeting to submit some proposition for joint publication in the form of a circular vote, the result of which should be known not later than November 1st. But I should also like to answer, on my own authority, one point to which Mr. Holway did not reply. I do not believe that Mr. Holway wrote to Dr. Marsh that we did not want to see him here in Samokov, for that is not so. He simply wished to have him understand that under the circumstances it would be impossible for them to wait for his proposed visit, and so urged him to send them (Mr. Thomson and himself) his views on the question. Dr. Marsh, therefore, has put an entirely wrong interpretation upon the matter and has been needlessly offended.

I am very sorry that we have to take up any of your precious time and strength with a matter of this kind, but we feel that it is so important that it cannot be passed over entirely unheeded. It is because of the manifestation of such a spirit that many of us added to the vote about Mrs. Marsh's furlough that we think Dr. M. should also have some relief. It is the most charitable interpretation that we can put upon his conduct in this connection to say that he is overtaxed and overwrought, and that he needs a rest and change. If he maintains and manifests such an attitude towards the Methodists as that shown in this letter, how long can harmonious and profitable relations be ~~maintained~~ kept up with them now that they are in Sofia in the person of Supt. Count? It must be said, however, in justice to Dr. Marsh, that he sent this last letter before he received our protest. For certain reasons I had held that back for a time, but made haste to forward it as soon as I learned that he was contemplating another such epistle. I was too late, however, but apparently it would have made no difference with him. In acknowledging the receipt of the protest he has written me as follows:-"I have your letter of the 15th inst. and the Protest. Thank you for both. I at once signed the Protest, with all the rest of you. Is it not fortunate to have a subject where we are all agreed? I will write you again on the subject before long. I received your letter some hours after I had posted my recent letter, which probably you have seen by this time. I believe that Providence wished and directed that so to be." See page 4.

In my last letter I said that I would write you more fully about the

help given by Mr. Count to two of our students for going to America. These boys had been in our school, one for four years and the other for five. During all this period they had paid greatly reduced fees, had had school work to do and had been helped privately by our missionaries. They had only one more year to finish our scientif. course. During the past summer one of them worked in some of our outstations in Bulgaria. The other was in Pleven, in the Methodist mission, and having no employment was given work as a lay preacher by the Methodist preacher in Pleven and promised permanent employment, or help for his expenses for the last year in our school, if he would transfer his church membership to their mission or promise to become a worker in their field. This young man, being in doubt what to do, laid the proposition before us, and then* both of the young men, who were suffering from "American fever", went to the Conference at Lovetch. The first one had previously asked Dr. Marsh if he could be helped financially to go to America, and Dr. M. had told him that he had no funds for such a purpose. At Lovetch the young men talked with Mr. Count, and he finally told Mr. Holway that if our mission were not able or willing to help them he would be ready to do so, in connection with their expenses in our school, if they transferred their membership to the Methodist mission. He also gave Mr. Holway to understand that he could guarantee the young men no help for going to America after they had finished at our school. Mr. Holway asked him if he thought it was fair to step in and get the benefit of these young men's services by helping them for only one year after we had been supporting them for four and five years; and he replied that he could not do otherwise, as the regulations of their Educational Society stipulate that help can be given only to members of the Methodist church or to those who engage to become workers in that church. On Mr. Holway's return to Samokov we consulted together over this matter, and finally decided that from the ordinary funds at our disposal we could not do more for the young men than we had done in former years, and that we were not sufficiently convinced that they would make desirable workers in the future to justify us in trying to raise special help for them. So they finally decided to take the aid that Mr. Count was ready to give them, and obtained letters of dismissal from our local church, which they deposited with the Methodist Mission.

And now a few words as to the bearing of all this upon the interests of our school. During the summer all the possible candidates for the new seventh class (not theological) for one reason or another, which I cannot now give in detail, decided not to return, with the exception of the two above mentioned young men. At the summer meeting of the Trustees it had been decided that there must be at least three candidates in order to have the class; and so almost up to the beginning of the school year it was doubtful if we would have it. But at Lovetch Mr. Holway, Mr. Count and his co-workers arranged that these young men and one other from their field, a former pupil who was then an assistant pastor and did not expect to return here, should come back to Samokov and take our seventh class. So at the opening of the school year they arrived and we made all our arrangements to have the class, even though two of them were somewhat irregular in their studies. The class was orgainized and the work begun, when suddenly, after four weeks had passed by, these two young men gave me notice that they intended to leave the school and no longer were to be considered students in it. The reason for this was that they could not get over their "American Fever" and had persuaded Mr. Count to permit them to use the help he had agreed to furnish them for their expenses in our school,

* On inquiry I find that only one of them attended the conference at Lovetch, the one who had been working in our mission during the summer. Another young man, their classmate, was also there.

$45 each, not for that purpose, but to help pay their expenses in going to America. Mr. Count sent the checks for the young men through me, writing at the same time that, as he saw that they were determined to go to America and in such a frame of mind would probably derive little benefit from another year of study in Bulgaria, he had decided to agree to their proposition to use his aid for going to America. Later he explained that he felt he could conscienticusly do this because he had not given us any promise or direct assurance that he would not aid them in this way. But several days before Mr. Count sent the checks to me, and without consulting any of us as to our views concerning such a step in the peculiar circumstances in which we were found, he had written directly to the young men (the letter was shown to me) informing them of his consent to their proposition; and in my opinion it was this consent that finally made it possible for them to carry out their plan for going to America. Of course we talked very earnestly with the young men, and tried to make them feel their obligations to the mission and the school; but they said that if they did not take advantage of Mr. Count's help now they would not know where to find money for their traveling expenses at the end of the school year, and their interests demanded that they should go at once. However, beyond protesting against the ungrateful, selfish and even dishonorable act of thus leaving the school in the lurch after the seventh class had been organized specially for them and carried on for four weeks, we did not feel that we could conscienticusly take more vigorous measures to retain the young men, because, for several important reasons, we were not sorry to have them leave the school. If they had been thoroughly satisfactory and promising as future workers, we should have protested most vigorously to Mr. Count and have urged him to withdraw his consent to such a use of his help. As it was, however, we decided simply to let them go and to let the Methodists make of them what they ~~could~~ can.

I have written at length to Mr. Count telling him how serious a thing for the school, in some ways, the taking away of these young men was, and also why we did not protest more vigorously against his action. I told him that for the past three years we have been working to bring the school up to the program of the seven-class national schools. If these young men had stayed, it would have been possible for us to go before the Minister of Education and say to him: "We now have seven classes according to your curriculum. What can you do about giving recognition to our school?" Now it is impossible for us to do this, for the one remaining student in the seventh class is not regular, as he does not take the mathematical subjects. We cannot, therefore, point to a fully accomplished fact, although we can show that all necessary arrangements have been made for the accomplishment of that fact. I pointed out to Mr. Count that this was naturally a great dispointment to us, and urged upon him the necessity of full and frank consultation in advance on any action that may mutually involve the interests of the two missions. I have had a good reply from him, in which he says that he did not fully understand our situation, makes some explanations of his course of action and promises to consult with us fully and freely in the future.

This failure to learn our views on the withdrawal of these young men from the school before consenting to aid this withdrawal is the only thing in which we think that Mr. Count did not use us quite fairly in this matter. He first consulted with us in regard to aiding the students and gave us the chance to help them first, if we could and desired to. Yet this matter of giving help may raise some interesting problems. We have no Educational Society to help us out, and I don't know that we should want to avail ourselves

of such aid if we could; so that if it comes to the matter of bidding for workers and students, I am afraid that they will be able to outbid us every time. Of course I can see how Mr. Count and his fellow workers can easily justify themselves in such matters on the ground that, in any case, they are only securing such helpers for general Christian work and keeping in line for such work some who might otherwise possibly be diverted from it; and we do not wish and do not intend to play the dog in the manger. Yet it seems to me that in such cases the Golden Rule should have a very careful interpretation and a very definite meaning, and this is one of the points where we must be on our guard, as you suggested to Mr. Count in your recent letter to him, against the native Christians taking advantage of the existence of the two missions for the sake of their own private ~~advantage~~ gain.

Nov. 13, 1908.

Since beginning this letter I have received a communication from Salonica enclosing a proposal for a circular vote in connection with Dr. Marsh's last letter. As the proposal had already been approved in substance by most of the members of the Philippopolis and Samokov Stations, we here in Samokov did not think it necessary to start a formal vote and wait for it to go round, especially as the trip to Albania and back now takes a good deal of time, and decided to act on the proposal of the vote without waiting for the formality. That proposal was That the whole correspondence leading up to Dr. Marsh's letter, together with the original of that letter, just as it circulated in the mission, and Mr. Holway's notes in reply to it, should be sent to Boston(for consideration by yourself, or by yourself and Mr. Bell, or by the Prudential Committee) with the request THAT THERE SHOULD BE AN EXPRESSION OF OPINION FROM THE ROOMS TO THE MISSION ON THE PROPRIETY OF SAID LETTER FROM DR. MARSH.

The circular vote in regard to the joint publication of the Zornitsa with the Methodists, which carried Dr. Marsh's letter with it, has not yet got back from Albania, which explains why this letter to you has been so long held up. I shall wait a few days longer, and then if it does not arrive I shall send on copies of all the correspondence, including Dr. M.'s, a copy of which was obtained before the vote was sent down into Macedonia. Even if I send the original, I shall still send the typewritten copy for your convenience in reading, and I think that you will find it almost verbatim, and absolutely exact as to sense and emphasis.

A CIRCULAR VOTE, started by Kortcha Station, proposing the establishment of a Northern Albanian Station, was disapproved by the Mission on the strength of your recent letter and because of the need of more investigation and deliberation. The proposal to have the next annual meeting of the Mission at Kortcha was left for decision at a future date. The above vote may mean the return of the Ericksons from Tiranna, whither they had started before knowing the decision of the Mission.

THE CIRCULAR VOTE submitting a proposition for the joint publication of the Zornitsa beginning in 1909, was lost by a small majority when it left Monastir for Kortcha.

Politically all is quiet on the surface here in Bulgaria and we are going on regularly with our work as in former years. The triennial joint conference is to be held next week in Yambol. Bulgaria has dismissed the

reserves that were recently called out for drill, and also one conscript of regular soldiers whose time of service has just expired. One of the young men thus released was a student in our school before he was taken as a soldier, and he has now applied to be received again so that he may go on and finish his course. There is a great deal of bitter feeling in the country because poor, weak, little Bulgaria seems to be left alone without backers in her dealings with the Turks, and that it is calmly proposed that she must pay a huge financial compensation to Turkey simply for the formal declaration of a condition that had practically existed for a number of years; while not a word is said about compensation from rich and powerful Austria for her wholesale landgrabbing from the Turks. It's a very hard thing to give a satisfactory explanation of the distinction, and the whole situation seems to justify the opinion that the great powers simply wish to enslave Bulgaria financially. Such is "High Politics".

Most of us here in Samokov, and so far as I know in the other stations, are well, and as full of work as we can manage, and perhaps more so. I am sorry to have to report, however, that Mrs. Ostrander has been laid up for a week with a severe attack of acute rheumatism which has caused her a great deal of intense pain. We have had of late much damp and foggy weather, and that has probably brought on this attack. She is somewhat better today, however, and we hope that it will soon pass away.

Please excuse all the imperfections of this letter, both as to composition, mechanical work and length. It has been written at many sittings and with many interruptions.

With cordial greetings from us all, and with an acknowledgement of the receipt of Mr. Bell's letter of Oct. 22 and its enclosure, I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

L. F. Ostrander.

Nov. 19. Mrs. Ostrander seems somewhat better today, but because of her illness I could not go to the Conference at Yambol, as planned.

L.F.O.

Vt. T. Portrander

Samoker. Col. Oct. 31-1908.

Rec'd DEC 2 1908

Notes by I. I. Kolway on Dr. Marsh's Letter.

(A) There is no time for delay if the instructions of Annual Meeting that the vote be taken not later than Nov. 1st are to be followed; especially since negotiations are to follow the vote.

(B) The meeting referred to was the only one during the week from which I was absent, and that for important reason. I had no idea that the Zornitza matter wd. be discussed in it.

(C) In regard to the "impudence and insolence" charged against me, I am perfectly willing to have my letters in question judged on their merits, - in view of the instructions given us.

(D) I tried to get into consultation with Dr. Marsh; wrote him a full acct. of actions taken at the Lovetch Conference shortly after my return home, and wrote him as soon as I received their decision to await our proposition. Not hearing from Dr. Marsh as to his views, and in order to avoid delay, the time allowed us having nearly passed, I embodied Mr. Thomson's view and mine of an equable basis of agreement in the form of a circular vote, and sent it to Dr. Marsh with the request that if he approved of this as a basis of co-operation, he wd. sign and forward it at once. This was on Oct. 1st, and I have recd. the enclosed letter in reply today, Oct. 17, a longer delay than I thot. necessary, since Dr. M. recd. the letter and proposed vote on Oct. 2d. On Oct. 8 I wrote him that if we did not receive his objections and ideas as to a basis of co-operation by Oct. 14, I shd. feel it necessary to forward the vote as the view of a

majority of the comm., leaving Dr. M. to send his views with the vote. He wrote that he wd. send a letter "when it was finished", and therefore waited for it until to day, the 17th. He could have written while absent from home, giving his views of an equable basis of co-operation.

(E) Mr. Brent is responsible for the lateness of our report; but still it is our duty to make every effort to have action taken in accordance with our instructions.

(F) Bishop Burt told me that they had been waiting these three years on us, with a view to the proposed co-operation.

(G) The dispute as to our respective fields was in regard to Sofia only. They base their position on letters between the Secretaries of the two Missions, one being the answer by Dr. Durbin in 1862 to Sec. Anderson's letter to him, in which Dr. Durbin "consents" to Sec. A's "request" that our Mission might occupy Sofia. While cordially consenting to our occupying Sophia, the wording of the following phrase is ambiguous, the M. Es claiming that it reserved their right to occupy it also. You have Dr. D's letter of Sept. 62, on file, H.C. 76. Our Mission places the opposite interpretation on the letter. Both inters. are possible, but I consider our inter. the correct and obvious one. I stoutly maintained this view in Lovetch, and reinforced it by all the facts and arguments in favor of our position which I have been able to learn from any source. I think Dr. M. wd. by no means accuse me of "swallowing in silence" their claims, had he been

present at the meetings, both public and private, in which I defended our position

(H) A verbal promise is by no means all that we want, but it may be all that we shall not get more. If Dr. Barton cannot get the desired conditions agreed to by the M. E. Board in the U.S., it is not likely that we shall be able to do so here. They claim the right to enter Sofia without conditions, unless we can show documentary evidence that our interpretation of Dr. Durban's letter is the right one. So far as I know documentary evidence of this is lacking. [Bakallum. H.] I have carefully examined the files of the M. Herald during the early years of the Bulgn Missions, and can find no clear statement as to the exact limits of the two fields. Our present question is, - What is most advisable for us in existing circumstances?

(I) "Base to give it over." We do not propose to give over the Paper to them, but to co-operate; that is to publish it at a greatly reduced cost to ourselves, and to reach, we hope, a wider circle of readers than either Mission could do with independent papers. With both missions occupying Sofia, this course will show friendly rather than unfriendly relations between us.

(J) The remarks in regard to "confidence" referred to general relations; not to the Zornitza matter. Of course there would be a written agreement in case of co-operation.

(K) The question is not, Are we the first to

do this? but, Is this the wise thing for us under the circumstances?

(L) Finances. Our expenditures under this proposition would be cut nearly in half, while we would receive nearly or quite 3/4 of the rects. from subscriptions. Our liability therefore, wd. be less than at present.

(M) In case of their failure to provide their copy on time, I sho advise publishing the Paper at the usual time, with their space left blank. I think it wd. be necessary to do it only once.

(N) Dr. Marsh's argument is against co-operation on any basis, and should have been presented to the Annual Meeting, when this Com. was appointed to investigate and recomend a basis of cooperation.

Dr. Marsh's letter

Rec'd DEC 4 1908

Samokov, Bulgaria,
Nov. 21, 1908.

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.,
Boston, Mass.,

My dear Dr. Barton,

I enclose the original of Dr. Marsh's letter, which came back from Tirana, Albania, today. I also enclose a copy of the circular vote regarding the Zomitsa, with an explanatory letter. As indicated on the back, the vote is lost.

Mrs. Ostrander continues to improve somewhat, but is still in bed. It is not a very jubilant way of celebrating our wedding anniversary, which is today.

With cordial greetings, I am,

Very sincerely yours,
L. F. Ostrander.

L. F. Ostrander

Samokov. Bul. Nov. 21-1908.

MAR 19 1909

Samokov, Bulgaria,
Feb. 18, 1909.

Rev. James L. Barton, D. D.,
Boston, Mass.,

My dear Dr. Barton,

I enclose herewith copies of Circular Votes, Nos. 8, 9 and 10, w which have been passed by our Mission since I last wrote, together with the result of each vote. A copy of Vote No. 7 in regard to a plan for the joint publication of the Zornitsa with the Methodist Mission was sent to you by Mr. Holway, the chairman of our Zornitsa Committee, and if I am not mistaken I have already officially informed you that that vote failed to carry. The result of Vote No. 8 in regard to the purchase of a piece of property for the Girls' School in Monastir has already been communicated directly to the secretary of the W.B.M.I.

I have not yet acknowledged the receipt of the Appropriations for 1909, which came in due time and have been reported to the other stations of the Mission. Doubtless I should have written sooner in order to call your attention to one or two points which we do not quite understand, but which we think can be easily rectified. One of them is that in the Appropriations of the American Board my salary is placed at $440 with an allowance for one child of $22. This, of course, is just the salary for one half a year on the Samokov basis, and so it has occurred to us that the Committee, in making out the appropriations, may have had in mind that we are to leave on furlough after June. This is not the case. We expect that the Holways will do so, but even their furlough has not yet been authorized by the Mission, nor has ours. For the Holways an appropriation of $880 is made, with an allowance of $22 for language study for Mrs. Holway; so perhaps the best way to correct the matter would be to have our appropriation applied to them (incase their furlough is approved, as it doubtless will be) and their appropriation applied to us, with the addition of $22 to make up the full allowance for a year for one child.

The other point is in connection with the salary of Miss Clarke, in Sofia. In our estimates we asked both for Dr. Clarke and Miss Clarke salaries at the higher rate of 125 liras ($550) instead of 115 ($506) as formerly, because of the greatly increased cost of living in Sofia. The American Board has granted the 125 liras for Dr. Clarke, but the Woman's Board of Boston has kept Miss Clarke's salary at the former figure, 115 liras. We are wondering whether this is an oversight or mistake, or whether the ladies feel that they cannot grant the larger sum asked for. Miss Clarke, with her heavy responsibilities in Sofia, certainly needs the increase.

You will also find enclosed a copy of a letter which Mr. Haskell has written to the other members of the Mission, and which he requested me to forward to you, as well as a copy to Dr. Marsh. I am very glad to be able to say that Dr. Marsh in several recent letters speaking of Mission matters has expressed himself in language far different from that which he has formerly used and therefore much more satisfactory. We rejoice in this outward change and hope that it is an indication of a real change in sentiments too.

I have wanted to write to you for some time about various things connected with the school, and really should have done so, but with the overcrowded condition of our station work much of the correspondence that ought to be carried on has to go by the board. Even now I cannot write at length and in detail as I should like to, but feel that I must send you at least a few lines as to the general condition and prospect of the school.

Re school matters

In spite of the breaking up of the seventh class at the beginning of the school year, the number of students has reached that of previous years and even passed it, and at no time since I have been in the mission have there been so many in actual attendance as there have been during this year. The one student of the seventh class who remains is taking all the subjects of that class except the six hours of mathematics, and so we have begun to call our school, in an unofficial way, "The American Gymnasium." One result of this development of ours is decidedly interesting. As you know, Samokov is a small city and it is an almost unknown thing for the government to establish full gymnasia in such small cities. But the Samokov school of late years had gradually developed from one of four classes to one of six, and last fall the citizens desired to have it become a full gymnasium with seven classes. A deputation was sent to Sofia to see the Minister of Education, and their strongest argument with him was that the American Boys' School was to be a full gymnasium and so the city school must become one also in order to compete with it. And they succeeded in persuading the Minister, on this ground, to agree to give the necessary state aid.

Things are going along normally and satisfactorily so far as the internal life of the school is concerned, and we feel that good, faithful work is being done. I wish we could say as much for the finances of the school. We have more full pay scholars than ever before this year and we expect a decided increase in our income from tuitions. Yet this increase can by no means offset the increased expenses which the last annual meeting authorized in the hope that the Board would in some way provide the necessary money, and we closed our semi-annual account in December with a debt of 122 liras. There is every prospect that at the end of the school year in June their will be a debt in the neighborhood of 300 liras. We asked for an increase in funds of 350 liras. So far as I know, aside from the slight increase in tuitions, the only item received thus far against this extra amount is a gift of $25 from LaCrosse. So it is a condition that confronts us, and not a theory, and it raises a very serious problem for our coming annual meeting to solve. If you have any special instructions to give to the meeting on this point, it would be well to send them at once direct to the meeting at Kortcha, % Mr. Kennedy; for it has now been decided that the meeting is to be held there, beginning April 9th.

This year we have a strong sixth class consisting of nine members. Naturally they are interested in their future after their course in our school, now so near its close, is finished, and during the Christmas holidays they came to me in a body to talk matters over with me. The substance of the interview was this, that unless there is some likelihood that the diploma from our school will be recognized by the Bulgarian government, most, if not all of them, will feel obliged to leave our school next year and try to make other arrangements for continuing their education. This would seem to indicate that unless we can get government recognition for the school, we cannot expect to hold many students to the end of our scientific course. I at once presented this matter to the local trustees and the teachers' body, and after careful deliberation it was decided to prepare a petition to the Minister of Education and to send a deputation to Sofia to present it to him personally. Such a petition was prepared, setting forth the history of the school, its services to the country, its inner life and methods, and its present condition in regard to curriculum, teachers, etc.; and on the basis of all this and in view of the fact that we are now prepared to teach the full gymnasium program as effectively as it is taught in most of the state gymnasiums, we requested that the Minister should agree to recognize our diploma, given for the completion of the

seven years' gymnasium course, as of equal worth in government circles with similar documents given by the state gymnasium. One of the teachers and myself were appointed as the deputation to go to Sofia, and we spent a week there seeing various people who might have influence and help us and trying to get things arranged for a favorable consideration of our petition. We had a personal interview with the Minister, but as he was very busy at that time with the sessions of parliament and with grave political problems, the interview was very short and we had to be satisfied with the promise that later on, when he would be freer, we might have another and fuller conference. We had more detailed discussions with the head of the department for gymnasium instruction in the Ministry, and got and gave a good deal of information. But I received the very strong impression that the Ministry is strongly opposed, on principle, to all private schools, and that unless strong pressure is brought to bear from some quarter they will make no concession to us whatever, but will hold us strictly to the letter of the law (which we cannot entirely fulfil, especially in regard to teachers) not allowing us the exceptions which they allow to Catholic private institutions and permit to some extent even in their own schools. (Interview with Queen)

You will be interested to know that in connection with this work I was fortunate enough to obtain an interview with the Queen, and for half an hour, in an absolutely private talk, was able to present to her various features of our work. She seemed much interested and asked many questions not only about what we are doing but also about the general condition of the country in regard to spiritual things. As you doubtless know, she is a new quuen, having been in the country for less than a year. She is a German Protestant and is very gracious and unaffected, philanthropic and thoroughly interested in all good movements. Doubtless you have heard from Dr. Clarke of the audiences she has granted them and of her visit to the kindergarten. After hearing about our school and the object of our visit to Sofia, she said that the petition ought to be granted, and that she would gladly do what she could to secure a favorable consideration for it. On my leaving she asked me to come to see her again the next time I am in Sofia and to report to her the progress of petition. She also promised to visit our schools. Dr. Clarke reports that during her visit to the kindergarten she reaffirmed her opinion that our school ought to be recognized, and that the status objections to its recognition are political rather than religious*, which, I suppose, refers to Bulgaria's difficulties with the Greeks and their private schools in the country. Soon after my return from Sofia, I sent the Queen, in the name of the Trustees of our schools, a finely bound copy of our hymnbook, as a sample of the work done in our school printing establishment. In acknowledging and thanking us for this she sent 200 francs to be used as help for the poorest boys in the school. Yesterday (March 4) I received a letter from the Ministry saying that its decision in regard to our petition will be given after the head inspectors have investigated our school and reported upon it.

The Committee, for which Vote No. 9, provides, expect to start upon their tour through Albania week after next and to end up in Kortcha in time for the annual meeting. We are very glad that Mr. Peet can serve on this Com.

The political situation, while extremely interesting, is not causing any unusual excitement and is not affecting every day life very much except that the continued uncertainty is having a paralyzing effect upon business in some parts of the country. Our work in Bulgaria goes on about as usual.

With cordial greetings, in which I know all in our station would join

I remain, Very sincerely yours. L. F. Ostrander.

Finished, Mar. 5, '09.

L. S. Ostrander

Samokov-Bul. Feb. 18-1909.

(translated)

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Copy last

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Rec'd MAY 1 1909

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Samokov, Bulgaria,
April 20, 1909.

Rev. James L. Barton, D. D.,
Boston, Mass.,

My dear Dr. Barton,

Your letter of last month, sent to me at Salonica and containing instructions about the Albanian work, was forwarded from Salonica and reached me in time to be included in the other correspondence sent to the Annual Meeting in Kortcha. Your last letter under date of April 1st is also to hand. In it you speak of Dr. House and the division of his time between the Institute and the Mission. In passing I will simply say that Dr. House, so far as I know, has been under no compulsion from the Mission, but has been left free to divide his time as his conscience directs him to. It seems to me that this is a matter that must be arranged directly between Dr. Chamberlain and Dr. House.

Before writing anything else, permit me to thank you most cordially for the copy of your book, "Daybreak in Turkey". It has been most helpful to me in giving me a clearer idea than I have had before of the vast importance in world affairs of the Turkish Empire, and of the history and greatness of our work in that Empire. Since beginning its perusal stupendous events have again taken place in Constantinople, and I most earnestly hope that it will not be necessary to write another chapter chronicling a disastrous backward movement. Long before this reaches you you will know the details and outcome of the situation much better than I can now describe them to you, so I shall not attempt it. Here in Bulgaria everything so far is quiet, although the soldiers who were given 15 days leave of absence for Easter were recalled to their posts a week before the expiration of the time, and there is much impatience and dissatisfaction over the slowness of the Turkish government in completing the negotiations in regard to Bulgarian independence, with threats even of violent measures if the matter is not at once settled. It seems that in Constantinople the Sultan and his partisans are in full control, while the Young Turkey Party has the ascendency in the provinces of European Turkey. The ultimate result will depend almost entirely upon the final attitude of the provincial troops. We are naturally somewhat concerned about the safety of our delegates to Annual Meeting, who are returning this week from Kortcha to their various stations, but it is reassuring to read in the papers that up to the present time order is well preserved in all that region. This cannot be said of parts of Asia Minor, for the papers three days in succession have reported massacres in Adana and other places, and the "Yeni Gazette", of Constantinople, is reported to have confirmed the murder of two American missionaries at Adana. We hope and pray that this may not be true, and also that the reports of the massacres may be greatly exaggerated.

I enclose a short article giving some account of recent work here in Samokov, and hope that it may find a place, in whole or in part, in the Missionary Herald, which I had in mind when writing it. I also enclose a picture which may be of interest for the children's department of the same magazine.

There is nothing new to report as to the matter of the recognition of our school. The inspectors have not yet come to visit us, and if they do not do so before long we shall be compelled to think that this delay is simply an indirect way of ignoring our petition and shall have to act accordingly.

I have been informed that Mr. Clarke, of Monastir, has been chosen permanent secretary of the Mission in place of myself, so this is probably my last communication to you in that capacity. I hope that he may prove more ~~assure~~ efficient than I have been in keeping you in touch with the Mission's work.

Very sincerely yours, L. F. Ostrander.

Ostrander, L. F.

Samokor - Bal Apr. 20-1909.

Rec'd JUN 2 1909

13

83

Samokov, Bulgaria,

May 20, 1909.

Rev. James L. Barton,

Boston, Mass.,

Dear Dr. Barton,

I enclose herewith the documents of our recent annual meeting, which Mr. Clarke, the new secretary of the Mission, requested me to collect and forward from Bulgaria for the sake of greater security. The package contains the summary for 1908, the tabular view of Samokov Station for 1908, the minutes of annual meeting and the letter to the Rooms, the estimates for 1910, reports from the stations and various branches of the work, etc.

I wish to write just a word of personal comment on one of the statements in the minutes. In the report on the Supply of the Field it says that Mr. Ostrander, because of the great pressure of work, felt compelled to demit the position of Mission Secretary. This is hardly correct. I had said nothing whatever about feeling obliged to demit that work nor had I asked to be relieved of it. The change was made early in the meeting in view of the voluminous correspondence that had passed through my hands during the year, because some of the members of the Mission thought that it was too burdensome for me and that it might not be so burdensome for Mr. Clarke. The change was a surprise to me, and so you see it was entirely unsolicitated on my part.

We hope to report soon on the results of the Methodist Conference. You will be interested to know that our former pastor, Mr. Setchanoff, has been appointed to Sofia, and is to edit their "Christian World" for the rest of '09.

Our hearts bleed for our brethren, native and American, in the Central Turkey Mission. May God overrule this great calamity for the advancement of His kingdom through all that region.

Very sincerely yours, L. F. Ostrander.

L. F. Ostrander

Samokov - Bul - May 20 - 1909.

Rec'd JUN 9 1909

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84

Samokov, Bulgaria,

May 28, 1909.

Rev. Enoch F. Bell,

Boston, Mass.,

Zornitza question

My dear Mr. Bell,

I wish to thank you for your letters of the 11th and 12th inst. received yesterday morning. The one addressed to me as Secretary will be forwarded to Mr. Clarke for transmission to the other stations and for filing.

I cannot write at length today, but I want at least to call your attention to the enclosed document, which I am sure will be of interest as bearing on our problem of joint publication. I have replied to Mr. Count, acknowledging the receipt of his communication, thanking him for this early information, and saying that I think we should be furnished with an exact copy of the resolutions and decisions of their Conference on this matter, which I would submitted to the other members of our Committee and to the Mission, if necessary, and then report results to him. We should be glad to have an expression of opinion fro you and Dr. Barton on the present status of the question.

I will try as soon as possible to translate the petition sent in to the minister of education and send your a copy. As yet nothing further has been heard from the mikistry, nor have the inspectors come.

Thank you very much for your personal words and the items of news from Auburn. If our plans are carried out, it will not be so very long before we shall have a chance to talk things over.

Very cordially yours,

L. F. Ostrander.

Samokov. Bul. May 28-1909.

Rec'd JUN 28 1909

13

85

Samokov, Bulgaria,

June 14, 1909.

Rev James L. Barton, D. D.,

Boston, Mass.,

My dear Dr. Barton,

I wish to write you briefly today about a certain matter which I think should be brought to the attention of the Rooms without delay.

In letters from various members of our Mission you have recently heard about Rev. J. A. Campbell, of London, and of the good work that he has done in various places in Bulgaria. Mr. Campbell feels that he would like very much to join us more permanently in the work we are trying to do here, and I understand that he has sent to Boston for application blanks with the idea of offering himself to the Board for work in our Mission, and if possible in Samokov. But I also understand that he has been rather discouraged from so doing by Dr. Clarke, on the ground that he is not likely to be appointed because he is not an American. It seems to me that this is very unfortunate, and so I wish to call your attention to the matter and urge you and Dr. Patton not to neglect what seems to many of us an excellent opportunity to get a very desirable addition to our Mission.

Of course, if Mr. Campbell applies, as some of us are urging him to do, all the necessary facts will come out; and yet it may not be out of place to say a thing or two about him. I understand that by parentage he is half American, his mother being American. He has traveled in the U. S. and has had charge of a church there as pastor for a year and a half. He has worked harmoniously and successfully in connection with at least three of the Missions of our Board. He is thoroughly consecrated to the spreading of evangelical truth, as one can readily see from personal acquaintance with him

and even from the perusal of his book, "Under the Shadow of the Crescent". God has greatly blessed his presentation of this truth in many places.

Our Mission has the promise of two new men, but the men cannot be found. Here is a man who is ready and anxious to come, preferably as a preacher and evangelist, but if that is not thought desirable, then as a business agent and assistant, for which work his previous training has admirably fitted him and in which he could fill a long felt need in Samokov. It seems to many of us that this is a providential bringing together of the man and the work, and Samokov Station has voted heartily to endorse Mr. Campbell's application to the Board if he decides to make one.

In view of these facts, I hope that you will give this matter careful consideration, and that you will do as much as is proper and desirable on your part to encourage Mr. Campbell to come to our relief. In case you do not have his London address, it is the following: Rev. J.A. Campbell, 31 Brownswood Road, Finsbury Park, London, N.

Last Thursday the Minister of Education and one of his Heads of Departments visited Samokov and inspected to a certain extent all the schools of the city, including our two. This is not the final, or complete inspection, and so he is not yet in a position to give a definite answer to our petition. He was very pleasant and even cordial, but we cannot as yet tell what impression he received. He told us that the Queen had expressly requested ~~us~~ him to visit our schools.

I have as yet heard nothing further from Mr. Count in regard to Joint Publication.

With cordial greetings, I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

L. F. Ostrander

Samokov Bul June 14 1909

(copied 12/3/10)

R Campbell

Rec'd SEP 22 1909

Inquiries about Mr. Ward as Business Agent

86

Samokov, Bulgaria,

Sept. 8, 1909.

Rev. James L. Barton, D. D.,

Boston, Mass.,

My dear Dr. Barton,

This can be only a brief letter today, and a purely business one at that.

You know from the minutes of our recent annual meetings and from correspondence with members of our Samokov Station, that both the Mission and the Station for a number of years past have been urging the appointment of a man to act as a business agent at Samokov, doing at the same time teaching and other forms of missionary work. We all of us most earnestly hope that such a man can be found for us, and when he is we shall give him a most hearty welcome to our Station.

The particular object I have in writing today is to set on foot some inquiries in regard to Mr. Ward, who, we understand, was recently appointed to Harput in the capacity above mentioned, but who, for some reason or other, is not to remain there. We would like to know more about him and to investigate the possibility of securing him for our Station. We do not know where he is now, nor whether he is still inclined for such work and is available. But we would not like to lose him if there is any chance whatever of our getting him, and I have been authorized by the Station to take up this matter and push it as hard as possible. What can you do for us? How can we best get into touch with Mr. Ward and persuade him to join our Station? You would be willing to appoint him to us, wouldn't you?

Waiting with great interest your reply, I remain,

We have heard nothing from Albania for the last 10 days.

Very sincerely yours,

L. F. Ostrander.

Samokov-Bai Sept. 8-1909.

Rec'd DEC 16 1909

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Samokov, Dec. 3, 1909.

Rev. Enoch F. Bell,
Boston, Mass.,

My dear Mr. Bell,

I am in receipt of a number of communications from the Rooms, some of them on business for the Station, and other of a more personal character, all of which are hereby gratefully acknowledged. The one asking our opinion about conditions in Turkey is in the hands of a committee which will draw up and submit to us some such expression as can be sent to you. The announcement about the new term of service between furloughs came as a surprise to us, and the first impression that comes to most of us is that with the shorthanded condition of our Mission it will be decidedly difficult for us to avail ourselves of the new arrangement.

The word that the Board had closed its financial year without debt and that the Prudential Committee had appropriated an additional $600 for the C. and T. I. was indeed good news that strengthens our faith that God will lead us out of our difficulties, and gives us courage to work more earnestly in co-operation with Him in trying to find the necessary means to carry on the school. Although I cannot as yet report any answer from the ministry in regard to our petition for government recognition, conditions thus far during this new school year seem to justify us in going ahead as vigorously as possible. We have more students in attendance now than at any other one time that I know of. The present figure is 82, and one who was enrolled has already left. For the first time in our history, I think, we had to have a waiting list of applicants and were obliged to refuse a number because of lack of accommodations. Pending the arrival of new beds several boys had to sleep on improvised beds of kerosene boxes and boards. We have all the seven classes of the scientific course, with a fine group of seven in the highest class. One of our teachers left us last spring to continue his studies in Chicago University, and we were unable to find a suitable person ready to take his place; but we arranged that matter by having a number of us take some extra hours and by engaging a teacher from the national school to take five hours of mathematics. On the whole things have gone and are going well, and we have much to be thankful for, including our diffulties, as Dr. Booker Washington has recently pointed out.

You have doubtless heard from others that the general congress of Evangelical Churches recently held in Sofia, which I could not attend, was most satisfactory and encouraging. There seemed to be a marked spirit of unity and a hearty desire for cooperation, and we are praying that great blessings may result from it all. In this connection, however, I must report that the project for the joint publication of the Zornitsa has been dropped for 1910. The Methodists rejected our proposal and submitted a counter one which our Com. felt could not be accepted without the sanction of an Annual Meeting. I'll try soon to send you the rest of our correspondence on the subject.

It has been a great pleasure for us to have Mr. Cooper with us for two days and thus make the acqaintance of this new associate who, I am sure, will be a great help and blessing to Salonica Station. He came from Sofia and left this morning for Philippopolis, whence he will go to Macedonia on Monday with Mr. Clarke, who has been spending some days in Sofia with his stricken father. It is very good that he has thus been able to see so much of our Mission work.

With cordial Christian greetings, I remain,

Very sincerely yours. L. F. Ostrander.

Samokov. Bul. Dec. 3-1909.

Elias Riggs

JAN 26 1900
APR 4 1900

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Constantinople, Jan. 10. 1900.

Rev. Jas. L. Barton, D.D., Sec'y A. B. C. F. M.

Dear Brother,

I thank you heartily for the very kind way in which you speak in your letter of Nov. 9 of my state and work, and I am grateful to all your associates at the Missionary Rooms, and to many, many friends of our blessed work whom I do not know personally, for their sympathy and consideration.

I continue, notwithstanding increasing feebleness, to be able to do some little work almost every day, and am glad to be able to say that it affords me sincere pleasure to do it. During 1899 I have gone carefully over the Bulgarian version of the Scriptures as far as to the last chapters of Proverbs, making corrections where they seem needed. Another department of labor, which gives me pleasure as well as mental exercise, is the translation or composition of hymns. I have translated during the last year over sixty into Bulgarian, and a few at the request of members of the W. F. M. into Armenian & Greek. Bro. Thomson proposes to print a supplement to our Bulgarian Hymn and Tune Book, the last edition of which

was issued six years ago. Since that I have furnished him with over 170 Bulg. hymns which will have place in that supplement. I am not aware that he has any from any other quarter.

You speak of the cool weather as perhaps favorable to my health. I think the summer on the whole more favorable to me, because of less exposure to take cold. Our damp air, and the proximity of the foggy, stormy Black Sea, create conditions here which often produce bronchitis and influenza, and our health reports exhibit diseases of the throat and lungs as prevailing, and prominent at all seasons of the year. My daughter, Mrs. Trowbridge is now suffering from bronchitis, but I trust it will pass away soon. Her daughter Lizzie is now with us, and was expecting to return these days to her post at the hospital in Aintab, but is delaying her return partly on her own account and partly on account of her mother's being unwell. She is making herself useful here in her special capacity as a nurse.

Please remember me in fraternal salutations and cordial wishes for a happy and useful new year, to all your fellow workers at the

missionary rooms, whether I know them personally or not.

Most truly yours in Christ,

Elias Riggs.

Constantinople, Jan. 10, 00

LAST DAYS AND DEATH OF

REV. ELIAS RIGGS D. D. L L. D.

All friends throughout the country will naturally be desirous of knowing something of the last days of our beloved and venerated father, Dr. Riggs. His death was a fitting close to his beautiful life. He was able, on his 90th birthday anniversary, Nov. 19th, to see many friends-nearly a hundred-who called upon him in the afternoon, and really to enjoy the occasion. Between that time and Dec. 24th, I had the great privilege of six sessions, of more than an hour each, with Dr. Riggs, to consider questions connected with certain minor changes to be made, here and there, in our versions of the Bible. Two facts simultaneously pressed themselves upon my attention during these interviews, viz. his extreme and increasing physical weakness, and an alertness of mind and an accuracy of judgment that in no way differed from what I had known forty years ago.

He contemplated the taking down of the earthly tabernacle, and the entrance of the freed spirit into immortal life, with serene calmness, and a placid joy. He was greatly weakened by a hemorrhage that occured Dec. 19. But there was no great change till Jan. 15. From that time strength ebbed rapidly, and he peacefully breathed his last about 1 o'c. Thursday morning the 17th inst. The funeral service was held in the Scutary chapel at 11. 30, the following day, conducted by Drs. Washburn and Herrick in English, and Drs. Greene and Barnum in Armenian. The weather was very unfavorable, the roads almost impassable from snow, but before the service ended the chapel was filled. The burial was at Ferikeuy, by the side of the grave of his daughter Elizabeth.

Well do we know that, in all which characterized, and distinguished the life and work of Dr. Riggs, "We ne'er shall look upon his like again".

Some thirty hours before the end, when Dr. Riggs could no longer speak except in monosyllables and with difficulty, he asked for pencil and paper, and with trembling hand, wrote as follows, "God must be calling me. I cannot hear the voice of man . . . now wake" . . . We can hardly go wrong, if we fill out what he had not strength to complete.

Now "I shall be satisfied, when I awake, in thy likeness".

Constantinople, Jan. 25, 1901 G. F. H.

Account of Last Days & Death of Rev. Elias Riggs

S

Recd Feb. 11. 1901

Resolutions adopted by the Second Evangelical Church of Aintab, Turkey, at a special Meeting of the church on Sunday, the 3d of February, 1901.

Whereas it has pleased God Almighty to call to the Saints' Rest His servant, Rev. Elias Riggs, D.D. of Constantinople, a Missionary of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, who was engaged in translating and spreading God's Word in the Turkish Empire for a period of Sixty eight years:

Be it Resolved that we, the Second Church of Aintab, humbly bow our knees unto the Father, from whom every family in heaven and earth is named, for His wonderful mercy and grace in sustaining the life of His departed servant through a period of ninety years, and privileging him to engage in active missionary labor for almost three score years and ten;

Resolved that we extend our congratulations and joy to the family of Dr. Riggs for his life of unusual length and usefulness spent in the interests of our people, and for his quiet and peaceful death which afforded us a conspicuous example of victory over the Last Enemy through our Lord Jesus Christ;

Resolved that we offer our thanks to the American Board for employing a man of such singular ability and devotion within the limits of their Turkish Missions, thereby giving us in his person a concrete illustration of Talent, Time, Life and all else consecrated to the service of our Divine Redeemer;

Resolved that we beg Mrs. T. C. Trowbridge, a daughter of Dr. Riggs, to transfer her residence to our city, which cherishes the most tender memories of her husband, - the Founder and first President of the Central Turkey College -, and which has furnished him with his final resting-place on earth;

Resolved that a copy of these Resolutions be transmitted each to the Prudential Committee of the American Board and to Mrs. Trowbridge.

In Behalf of the Second Church of Antab,

(Rev.) M. G. Papazian,

Pastor

(Prof.) S. Levonian,

Clerk.

Anitab, Feb. 3-1901 S

Rec'd March 4

Astronomy
Rev. as copy

Dr. Riggs as Bible Translator.

Dr. Riggs's preparation for his lifework began with his parentage. His father was a highly respectable classical and Hebrew scholar. Under his training the future Bible translator, whom it may be difficult for most of us to picture as a lad, began the study of Greek at nine, and that of Hebrew at thirteen years of age. He entered College in his sixteenth year, and in College acquired Modern Greek through association with two Greek classmates, and not only pursued the study of Hebrew, but of its cognate languages also. During the course of his Theological studies at Andover he wrote and published, with the approval of Prof. Edward Robinson, a Grammar of the Chaldee Language

For the work to which his life was mainly given, on which he directly entered thirteen years after he became a missionary, that is, when he was thirty five years of age, his equipment was broader, more thorough and complete than has been attained by any other missionary of the American Board. As a linguist he had probably no peers in America or in Great Britain and very few on the continent of Europe. He never took pride or pleasure in enumerating the more than twenty languages with which he was acquainted. But we confidently assert, what his modesty would not allow him to do himself, that he had, before he reached middle life, gained a scholar's mastery of the at least twelve languages, in, and with which, his life-work lay, reckoning the ancient and the modern form of the Armenian and the Greek as one and not two languages. Observe, we say a scholar's mastery. He was the last to claim, and we do not claim for him, a facile use of the colloquial tongue in the case of some even of the languages in which he wrought for years. These twelve languages are the Hebrew (including Chaldee) Syriac, Ethiopic, Arabic, Greek, Latin, Spanish, English, Armenian Bulgarian, Slavic and Turkish. We do not care to lay stress upon Dr. Riggs's very respectable acquaintance with French and Italian

German and Russian, Persian and Sanscrit. The accuracy of his knowledge of languages, as also of many subjects besides languages, was quite as unique and surprising as its breadth. It may be pretty confidently asserted that, for sixty years of his life, he had no peer in his knowledge of Greek, Ancient, New Testament and modern, the Greek of learned writings and that of various dialects spoken by Greeks in different localities.

An incident of our Turkish Bible translation work comes to my memory that illustrates more than one of his characteristics as Bible translator, to be mentioned hereafter. One of the Committee presented and defended a translation of a Greek word in our text that gave a sense quite different from that which he had adopted in his Armenian and Bulgarian texts, and supported his view by reference to authorities that Dr. Riggs was accustomed to respect. Dr. Riggs looked surprised, but patiently examined the authorities quoted and others also, spending considerable time When the examination was finished, he remarked with a placid smile, not at all as though he were passing an authoritative judgment: "Well, the Greeks do not use the word in that sense, and they have never done so." Our discussion was closed and the proposed rendering was not adopted.

Dr. Riggs's work on the Armenian Bible began in 1845 and continued seven years; that on the Bulgarian Bible began in 1858 and continued twelve years; and his work on the Turkish Bible was from 1873 to 1878 and again two years from June 1883. It should be remarked that Dr. Riggs's relation to the Bulgarian and the Turkish versions differed in two important respects from his relation to the Armenian version. In the Armenian his was the sole responsibility from first to last, while in the translation of the Bible into the Bulgarian, in the larger part of the work, the responsibility, both in the shaping of the translation and in the printing, was shared with a colleague, Rev. Dr. Long, to whom the idiomatic and acceptable character of the version is largely due, and these gentlemen were efficiently

assisted, throughout, by two competent native scholars.

In the Turkish version Dr. Riggs's position was that of critic on a text already prepared, and he had no responsibility for the issue of any editions of the version. What was stated above relative to the time Dr. Riggs was occupied with the several versions requires important modifications on two sides, viz. During all those years Dr. Riggs was doing a great amount and variety of other work, both in the Department of Publication and out of it, either in regular preaching or teaching or both; and on the other hand, in other years than those devoted chiefly to translation, he was carrying editions of the Bible in one or more languages through the press, and this work always requires the most constant and scrupulous care, to prevent little mistakes from creeping in and to discover and correct possible mistakes, infelicities and inconsistencies that have crept in, undiscovered, in previous editions, as will be the case in all human work. The amount of proof-reading done in those sixty eight years, were it possible to be stated, or could the sheets be collected in one place, remembering that every letter, point and figure, passed under the closest scrutiny, would be simply appalling. And add to this work of Bible printing and proof-reading an immense amount of similar work in the Department of Mission publications, and add to this that any man who had anything, in any language, in the press, would say, "Dear Dr. Riggs, could you glance over one proof of this book? I should value it very much." "O, yes. I'll try to do so" he would smilingly reply, — and it was never a glance, if anything, but a careful, critical reading that he gave it. I do not say the proof sheets that he read in his life time would fill this room from floor to ceiling, if packed into it, but I am certain that if all were dumped in here, none of us would find any place to sit for the enormous pile. No wonder he never found it possible to begin that other work for which he was so eminently fitted, viz. the preparation of biblical commentaries, till he was well past three score years and ten. And when, do you suppose, he found time to furnish three races, in as many countries, with the hymns they sing in Divine worship? O, that was his recreation.

He translated and printed more than three hundred hymns, and that three times over into three several languages; and the gentle messenger who called him out of earthly life was bidden wait at the threshold while he finished the last of these.

Let us note certain characteristics of Dr. Riggs's mind as related to his great life work.

1. His profound reverence for the Bible.

His faith in the Word of God was so absolute, so sincere, so settled a thing, so wrought into every fibre of his mental and spiritual being, that it ceased to be true, long before I knew him, even if it could ever be said to be true, that the responsibility he labored under in transferring the sacred text from the original tongues into the languages of these lands, was of the nature of a burden. He was not oppressed with the gravity of his task. He served as the High priest in the temple served. He carried the Ark as the anointed priests carried it. That was the work assigned, the appointed service, and faithfully, gratefully he discharged the trust, as under the Master's eye. The sense of profound reverence was always with him one of the prime constituents of his equipment.

2. Dr. Riggs had infinite patience of scholarly research.

He worked with moderation rather than rapidly. There was no unsteadiness about his mental work. If he worked ten hours a day, and in his prime he sometimes did, the work of the tenth hour was just as clear cut as that of the first. To illustrate exactly what I mean, by his infinite patience of research, let me put the matter concretely. When the Committee of three surviving members began working together on the Turkish Bible, in 1873, Dr. Riggs, besides the princely equipment, with which he began his translation work twenty-eight years before, was twenty-eight years in advance of us in experience, in the work of translating the Bible. How many questions had become settled, in his mind, in these twenty-eight years! What perfect right he had to shrink from re-examining such questions! Who would have dared offer a word of criticism, if he had said, a thousand times, "This matter, gentlemen, I've gone through with. My mind is made up.

Take all the time you require to investigate. Here are the authorities, these lexicons, these versions, these commentaries, and as many others as you choose to examine, but excuse me". Did he ever say this, or anything like it? Never. He was the first to turn to authorities, old and new, with an open mind, to go with us over the subject, as though it were new to him.

He was a conservative biblical scholar, but, till my last session with him, the 24th of last December, when we could all see the gleaming of the white wings of the angel band, eagerly awaiting permission to "sing him to his rest" Dr. Riggs was never unready to give patient ear, and to weigh in just balances, any scholarly interpretation of Scripture, let it come in the form of biblical criticism, or from history or the ancient monuments and tablets. He said to me, not long ago "I've had to change many things in my Bible Dictionary. The excavations in Egypt, Syria and Babylonia have shed much new light on Scripture." Our latest work together was to make certain changes in our New Testament versions, necessitated by the consensus of modern biblical scholarship, so far as those changes were permitted by Bible Society rules. For the Bible translator, "various readings" in the New Testament and the possibility oftentimes in the Old Testament of tracing forms in an ancient language like the Hebrew, to more than one triliteral root, require of the modest and unprejudiced scholar, endless patience, the open mind, and a readiness to revise, again and again, a judgment already carefully formed. This temper it is which makes a scholar like Dr. Riggs well-nigh certain to form and reform correct judgments. Dr. Riggs was ready and that for the twentieth time, if necessary, in order that not the least avoidable error should be allowed to find place in his work, to search far and near, for just the right word for an ancient gem, or Asiatic bird, or musical instrument, or vessel of the temple, and was really unhappy if obliged at last to confess that certainty of translation of a matter so ancient and so recondite was unattainable.

3. A third characteristic was unfailing considerateness to junior associates.

Dr. Riggs did all his Bible translation work with one or more associates working with him, either native or missionary or both. In the case of the Committee on the revision of the Bible in Turkish, the number was large; including all assistants, it consisted of seven persons. During the seven years, when this work was in hand, there was never an occasion when Dr. Riggs showed by silence or by speech, by look or tone of voice — he was far too perfect a gentleman to say it out intentionally — that his judgment deserved special respect, that his vote ought to count two to our one, that his knowledge and experience ought to overshadow our ignorance and inexperience. You may be pretty sure what the effect of such a spirit as he showed had on us. Rastically, in the matter of the meaning of the text, he made a majority, though he disclaimed all right to more than a single vote; or, better, we found ample reason to coincide ninety-nine cases out of every hundred, with his judgment, and he doubtless had more respect for us, if in the hundredth case we showed that we had studied up a subject somewhat as he so often set us an example in doing. In the matter of choosing the proper word in the language into which the translation was made, no man could be more ready to defer to those whose acquaintance with usage was wider than his own.

Although in all the work of Bible translation and in the passing of numerous editions through the press, Dr. Riggs was himself facile princeps, yet no man was ever more ready than he was to give due and more than due credit to junior associates and assistants, to printers, proof-readers and compositors. I often observed the very kind relation between him and an old Bulgarian compositor who worked on the Bible for many years. For myself, I learned from those years of association with that noble mind and character, new lessons in the divine forbearance, in the infinite patience of our Heavenly Father with us. With filial gratitude

do I recall one instance when I had almost offended our English colleague by too warmly expressing my desire to get on faster in the work. Dr. Riggs called me aside after all others had left, and with exceeding gentleness and sweetness, administered a reproof which was more effective than any I ever received before or since.

My friends, I am detaining you already too long. One thing remains, without which this review of a theme I love to dwell upon would be inexcusably incomplete. What has been the result of Dr. Riggs's great life work? rather what will be its result, when all its fruits are garnered? Generally, I have little fondness for statistics. But bear with me while I read you the answer to questions I have asked at proper sources of information. Since Dr. Riggs's translations of the Bible appeared, there have been sold

Of Armenian and Armeno-Turkish,	Bibles	98,687	Tests.	142,763
" Bulgarian,	"	56,184	"	75,600
" Osmanli-Turkish,	"	7,359	"	27,498

The number of single gospels and other portions in these three languages exceeds half a million, 151,600 of which are in Osmanli Turkish.

I repeat, all this was not one man's work. Scores of active minds and skilled hands contributed to the great result, but in it all, Dr. Riggs was first and chief. Have you scales with which to weigh, or rules by which to measure the significance of a life-work like this!

The homes, the schools, the churches, where Dr. Riggs's translation of the Word of Life are read, and where the hymns he translated are sung, are numbered by the ten-thousand, and extend from the Adriatic to the Persian Gulf, from the snows of the Caucasus to the burning sands of Arabia.

The mansions of the home he has now gone to are populous, the golden streets of the city where he resides are thronged by those from many lands, of many languages, whose feet

have been guided thither as the result of his life's endeavor to place the Word of God before them in their own vernacular tongue. Thousands who have sung his hymns in earthly temples now join the chorus of those who sing evermore:

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and might, and honor, and glory, and blessing. — Worthy art thou, for thou hast redeemed us unto God with thy blood out of every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation."

Miss Ellen M. Stone, 92

APR 6 1900
OCT 3 1900

American Mission,
Salonica Turkey,
Mch. 22, 1900.

Rev. C. H. Daniels, D.D.; —

My dear Dr. Daniels; —

As per request on the resolutions passed by the Prudential Committee at Boston, Feb. 13, I report that I have to-day received a copy of the same, and will preserve it for future reference, and will do my best to come within its requirements, as I have been able to do, since returning from my visit home.

Have you heard the good news from Salonica Station —

forty-three members received to six communions, from Jan. 1-Mch. 1. This is just the number received to all the places in our Station during all of last year! - May we see "greater things than these", for the glory of God, and the uplifting of the Bulgarian people, may all the peoples of Macedonia! -

We depend greatly upon the prayers of God's people; they are heard and answered.

Although Rev. E. B. Haskell and his lovely wife and three children are to leave us next week Thursday, for Thursday, and we would gladly be together until then, it seems best that Mr. Baird leave next Satur-

day, for a tour in the Skopia and Priština region, — the north-western part of our field. After returning from that tour, another will be in order, with an intermission of only two or three days, toward the extreme northern part of the field, and home via Philippopolis, and the 25th anniversary of the Bulgarian Evangelical Society, which will barely permit me time to get home in advance of our guests for the annual meeting of our Mission, which will meet with us May 2. We have no trouble about keeping busy, rushed even, all the time. God grant it may be a fruitful service.

If you will kindly show

this letter to Dr. Barton, I will be obliged, as I cannot now write separately to him.

Mr. Haskell is planning to be at the Ecumenical Conference in New York. May great blessings flow from it! The world seems waiting to be drawn nearer to God, and He is surely drawing all men by His Spirit. May His children be successful in winning these souls, being filled with the Spirit!—

Asking most cordial remembrance to Mrs. Daniels and to Mrs. Barton and Sec'y Barton, I am with sincere regards

Faithfully yours in service,
Ellen M. Stone.

Em. Stone
Apr. 1900.

(2)

EP

Our Salonica Letter.

Tidings from the men of the Fleet.

MAR 11 1901

My dear friends:

You have expressed so much interest in the letter upon the visit of the Mediterranean Squadron to our city, last October, - that I feel your eager desire to learn more of the men in whom you as well as we became so deeply interested.

Just now the booming cannon from the fort have ly suggest a salute to incoming ships, but there is no distant response which would confirm this supposition, and we know that this is but one of the five daily artillery salutes during the feast of Bairam which the Turks are celebrating for four days this week. Charlie House makes no frantic rush to the locust tree in the Mission House garden, to look out over the gulf, when he hears the cannon roar. The blue waves sparkle just as knowingly in the sunlight; the transparent air envelops the scene in the same wondrous brilliancy. Olympus is never louder with his mighty, imperious mantle, and the nearer hills and fields are far more verdant, - than when the Fleet was here; yet the walk by the sea does not tempt us irresistibly. With quiet hearts the children give themselves ~~are absorbed in~~ to their studies, which their elders are absorbed in attending to the continual rush of usual work, and to the unusual rush of preparation for the first gathering of our Mission which will be held here Spring May 2.

While our friends of the Blue Jackets and Red Coats are absent at Malta or elsewhere they have not forgotten their Salonica friends; and while we have been doing our winter work, Dr. House and Mr. Haskell especially holding evangelistic services in northern Macedonia during January, and gathering in the first-fruits, 47 souls received to communion during the first three months of this year, - we have not forgotten them. Letters have passed back and forth between the ships and the Mission, and the bonds of Christian fellowship to-day are as strong as ever. I have been reading their letters in the package which Dr. and Mrs. House loaned me, and am sure you would like to read them too. So I call for you, and promise you a peep into my bundle, in my next letter, if your appetites are whetted for more.

By the way, Rev. E. B. Haskell and family left us March 29 for their first visit to America. Their going makes a great gap in our circle. Were the fleet to come here now the men would miss that hospitable home, to which some of them gravitated so naturally, and would be sadly at a loss without Jamie and sweet little Margaret, and Baby Douglas to love and pet; but they couldn't miss them as we do. Among the many good things which Mr. Haskell hopes to do, while at home, is the securing of funds to complete the payment for the Mission House, and to find, perhaps in conjunction with the International Y. M. C. A. Committee, just that great-hearted, many-tongued young man who is so greatly needed to help in the development of adequate measures for the evangelization of this polyglot, conglomerate city. If Mr. Haskell comes your way, he will certainly arouse in you the desire to have a share in this continuation of St. Paul's labors in this very city. But to our letters: -

First, from Ames, the children's prime favorite. He writes a little sadly of the probability that he might not again visit Salonica, as "I have been shipped from the Isis to the Don, a small river gun-boat, which rarely leaves Malta. Jan. 21 I received a letter from Hans, whom you will remember left us at Salonica, to join his regiment at the front and is now near Ladysmith, So. Africa. He desired to be remembered to you all, and said that the time he was in Salonica was a great blessing to his soul. His testimony before the day of battle was that Jesus was his Savior, an all-satisfying Savior, his God, his shield and

Inactler. Whether it was for life or death, he was wholly the Lord's. I felt it was a grand testimony and I am glad that I can add mine to his. I am the Lord's, to do with me as seemeth Him good, my only desire to do His will, and to win men by whom I am surrounded, to our Savior. The meetings at Salonica were indeed a great blessing to many, and since we have been back in Malta, the results have been seen in the more invited meetings we have had, and the souls saved in them. xxx Several of our comrades are leaving us for home. The Ramillies pays off to-morrow and by her we lose a number of Christian men; also the Hood in a week or two. The Revenge has already paid off. We need men to take these comrades' places so that the work of God may go on in these ships. xxx God grant that there may be a great ingathering of souls in the Mediterranean Fleet and garrison of Malta. xxx With Salvation love to all the Mission-circle and to the Bulgarian friends, God bless them! P.S. There is no Christian on the Isis now. Mr. Hooper is with me; another comrade in the hospital, but gaining, and the only other is in the Cockatrice that goes up the Danube but is now at Alexandria. They are all pressing toward the prize of their high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Harry Dyer, Writer, he of the football team, and the sweet alto voice sent greetings from Malta, where confined to his berth with his leg in splints from an accident at his favorite game. "I can assure you that all our Christian brothers on the Ramillies were very sorry to leave Salonica, and often wished they were back again, but, please God, they hope to see you later on as there is some talk of a part of the Fleet going there again. Never fear that your loving kindnesses to them and especially to myself, will ever be forgotten. We sincerely thank you from our hearts and earnestly pray that God's abundant blessing will rest upon you always."

Gunner V. B. Hill, R. M. Artillery on board H.M.S. Empress of India sending his thanks for a photograph of Dr. & Mrs. House says: "When I look at your photograph it will bring back the memory of the kind friends I have seen. I had a father and a mother while I was at your house, for I don't know what it is to have a father and mother of my own; but I have a Father in Heaven who will take care of me if I only trust Him and believe in His Word. M. was converted at Salonica so now we have six Christians on board."

Smart, a red-coated marine, assured his late hosts:- "I must say I was very sorry to leave Salonica, for I have never enjoyed myself so much before. Our one-all meetings are increasing in numbers, - two more more marines have decided for Christ, and another is on the way, for he wants to take one more step and he is "over the line". I know we shall have him for we are praying for his soul every day."

A Blue-jacket, who drew our hearts peculiarly at the farewell meeting before the Fleet set sail because he was the only man who had no word for Jesus, wrote back to Mrs. House;- I cannot now tell you that I am an out and out Christian. I do not profess to be, but by the help of God I intend to live a good life, and do all I can for those who have no control over themselves. Do not think of me as a bad boy because I do not confess religion. I reverence the name of my Savior, and I also attend all meetings I possibly can, as there is nothing I like more than singing songs of praise. xxx Christmas was a sad time for me. It was my watch on board, so that I could not get ashore, and a Christmas on board is anything but desirable, especially when drink is to be got. Then too there were several deaths in the Fleet, drink being cause in each case. xxx Next Christmas, D.V. will be spent with my dear Ma and Dad, brothers and sisters. We have only six months more to do on this Station. I should like very much to see you all before I left for Good Old England. The brothers on board wish to be remembered to you."

Oakley, the man with a camera, illustrating his "sketches along the Mediterranean" enclosed a few

more photographs of the children. I am glad you like them. For myself I am in the best of health, and still casting my burden on Him who has promised to sustain me. My wife and little ones are well and join me in good wishes to you all. If we do not meet again before going home to England, we can journey through this world with the comforting knowledge that we shall meet again where there is no more parting. Our brothers on board are all well and send their kind regards to you all. We have plenty of work here for the Master, but it is cheerful work indeed, with the knowledge that we are doing good. With prayers for the work you have undertaken, Your comrade in Christ:

'The trials that those men do meet withal,
That are obedient to the heavenly call,
Are manifold and suited to the flesh,
And come and come and come afresh, (2 Tim. 3; 9)
That now or some time we by them may
Be taken, overcome, and cast away.
Oh let the pilgrims, let the pilgrims then
Be vigilant and quit themselves like men'. Heb. 2; 1.

One justice from H. M. S. Empress of India, acknowledging a photograph of Dr. & Mrs. Howe and their two younger children, who are special pets with the crew, writes:- "It does one's heart good to be able to look on faces of those one knows to be working for the same great Master, and often wonder how that old man is getting on that was wavering when we were there. I have often prayed for him, and hope that he decided right. How we must pray to God for those poor fellows out in South Africa, that do not know Christ. What a dreadful thing to go all unprepared to meet God! Oh for grace to draw more souls to Him. I am very anxious to come to Salonica again. It is such a nice place, where one can find Christian friends. God bless and help you in your noble work".

Corpl. H. Hews, 1st Rifle Brigade, Field force, So. Africa, Nov. 21, '99, "I have had no time to write or do anything. Immediately upon rejoining my regiment everything was rush, rush, rush, till now we have just arrived at the Cape, and now have to tranship to Umbria for Durban, and on to Ladysmith as a relieving force, for Sir George White. I am thankful to say I am well in body and soul. We have 20 Christian men in the regiment and have some glorious times. I leave the regiment as soon as we arrive at the Base, as I am appointed doctor's assistant. Then I shall be able by His help to give some message of cheer to those who are wounded or dying. Pray that I may be made a mighty blessing to many a precious soul. I thank Father for this glorious opportunity. ... I shall never forget the kindness and love and help with which I was blessed during my stay in Salonica. God will repay you for it all. I look back to those sweet evenings and happy times, and realize that they were indeed seasons of [illegible]h strength and renewed courage to me. I pray that the loving father will in the future, as never before, give [illegible]some real and glorious and mighty victories over the hearts of men. May He make your home the birth[illegible]e of many precious souls! Ever yours truly in Jesus, for God and souls".

Fireman of H.M.S. Hussar, wrote from Malta;- "I mentioned you all and your work to Miss Heston, and the members of the R.N.C. Union were asked to remember you all in their prayers. We expect to return to England at the end of this year '99 - as it will be three years Dec. 3, since we commissioned for this Station. Then we shall get 6 weeks leave, and may the love of God our Father reach the hearts of many of our dearest friends through us, while we are among them! Pray for me that God will use me to bring members of my own family to His feet; also other dear friends whom I expect to meet. All brothers that attended your meetings are still pushing onward and upward. They pray for the Lord's children in Salonica".

Haddrell, Leading Seaman on the Hebe, salutes from Malta;- "Victory! Victory! Victory! I thank God for every remembrance of you all, and ever remember you and your work at the throne of grace.

No doubt you have thought me in England by this time but the Lord has been showing me reasons why I should not go just yet, and I rest assured that when His time comes I shall go. The Fleet arrived here on Thursday. When I met Brother Ames of the Isis on shore he told me of the grand work that had been accomplished at your home. When I saw the at-home, and you explained to me your intentions, I asked our Heavenly Father to bless greatly your efforts, especially for our men, and now my heart is open in thanksgiving to Him who has thus answered my prayer. I met three men from the Ramillies, who told me that Salonica was their spiritual birthplace. They are dear, bright brothers, who have started in a grand way to work for Jesus. Praise the Lord for the Twos and the Threes in all the ships! xxx I love children very dearly and [illegible] shall be to take part in the Children's Band of Love. I have been having some rough times of late on board, but [illegible] God has had a hand in them all. I have been only passed through the fire of trouble to be refined as gold. He has [illegible] of trying us before He uses us for His glory, and He wants us clean.

Here is from an old friend, who came with the Fleet three years or more ago and [illegible] as an esteemed friend in Dr. Hanna's & Mr. Haskell's families. H.M.S. Rodney, South Queens Ferry, Scotland. [illegible] have been at home for a few days. Only 103 days more, and I hope to be with my wife and children. Seven long years out of ten we have been parted, and [illegible] are thankful this will be our last parting. Come what may, our trust is in God. He knows best. [illegible] have seen Salvationist comrades in S. Africa; so far as we know none are among the [illegible] at Kimberley. It was very remarkable at Atalaya and Candurman every one of about [illegible] command. xxx I should like to come to Salonica again for a week or two, but when our [illegible] the battle fought, we shall be able to tell of their victories, to the glory of Him who has led us. [illegible] the dear old Gill-woman and Miss M. I often tell of you and your work, and [illegible] seem interested, cheered, and encouraged, when they compare their difficulties with your [illegible] the past two years I have sometimes been alone humanly speaking, but God has always [illegible] recent there are 7 other Christians on this ship, most of them recent converts. As a band we have placed ourselves under the Salvation Army Division, and our officer appoints us for weekly meeting at the marines corps within 30 miles of Edinburgh. xxx You may be interested in the daily routine on this ship. At 5.30 [illegible] are turned out. We, the Christian Comrades muster for knee-drill at 6 o'clock, for 15 [illegible]; at 12.30 [illegible] served out we again muster for prayer and reading, except on Tuesday and Friday when we have a public meeting. The Commander kindly permits us to use the Magazine Deck, which will probably hold 100 men. We usually get 40-60 down. A few weeks ago we obtained permission for a meeting on the upper deck, and had about 300 present. We are urging our lads to be men of prayer. xxx We always remember our first prayer-meeting in Salonica, in the cemetery out by the barracks. The work at Midan really took shape in the entry to your late residence. On the third anniversary 287 had professed conversion there. They are scattered all over the world, trying to lift up the standard of the cross. Please convey our love to any who may remember us among the Bulgarian or Greek comrades. In the great Harvest Home we shall meet."

Such, dear friends, are the letters from the men of the British Fleet. Worth reading, aren't they?

Ellen M. Stone.

Salonica, April, 1900.

Visited in December, after a summer & autumn of touring.

[illegible]

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Miss Ellen M. Stone 94

DEC 27 1900

Salonica, Turkey,
Oct. 22, 1900.

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D., For. Sec'y.;—

My dear Dr. Barton;—

Your letter of Oct. 6, which I received this morning, and another which came a number of weeks ago, and upon which I cannot now lay my hand, because my annual cleaning day has come, — are awaiting answer. In the latter you made a laughing allusion to my "bishopric." I am only a humble sister, trying to help the brethren wherever I can, while at the same time caring for my dear little flock of teachers and Bible women. The field is a large one, especially

as Sawokar and Monastir Stations like me to keep in touch with their work, by at least one yearly visit. It is such a comfort to feel in writing to you that you know all about it, from your own missionary experiences. You know about the long journeys on horseback or by carriage, when one can do nothing but go, and think of the letters to be written and other work pressing to be done, but which must wait until the tour is over, for the people want all there is of us, while we are with them, you know.

You have now doubtless seen and heard our Mr. Hackell,

and now know better what a growing man he is, and what a strong man already. It is very hard for Dr. Hance to be left the only man in our Station, as he must be by the enforced absence of Mr. Baird soon for surgical treatment. Just now Dr. Hance is not feeling well, nor is Mrs. Hance any too robust. They have a charming home, and many make claims upon their hospitality, which is never refused either to missionary, European, or Bulgarian friends; but it tases them, in connection with all the work which is upon them. — The Clarke-March family made a great mistake last year at annual meeting, when they refused to allow Rev. Wm. Clarke to be transferred here, and Mr. Baird to remain in the school in Samokov. The

Bulgarians pleaded loudly for Mr. Baird as an efficient teacher, and a man of experience whom the boys respected. Family preferences, however, controlled the vote; but it soon transpired that the young people themselves would have preferred to come to Salonica, they would have been the help we need, and Mrs. Baird's health would not have suffered from the touring. We are very glad to hear that you plan to visit our mission before long. We have had a great desire for such a visit, for a number of years.

Hoping that you have had a satisfying tour in Mexico, and that Mrs. Barton is well, and praying God's comfort to abound toward you and us all in our sorrow for China, I am

Very truly yours Ellen M. Stone.

Miss Ellen M. Stone

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NOV 10 1900
DEC 27 1900

Salonica, Turkey,
Oct. 25, 1900.

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.,
Foreign Sec'y. A. B. C. F. M.,
My dear Dr. Barton:-

Enclosed please find some notes, a copy of those I made for the Station Records, by the Secretary, Dr. Conk's, request. They are brief mentions of a few of the multitudes of experiences which have come to me, or under my observation, during the summer months.

Yes, I agree with you, Dr. Barton, after my ex-

Yours faithfully, Ellen M. Stone.

perience in school-
work and in touring,
that the latter, with
all its rough experiences
and exposures, brings
one nearer to the
heart of the nation,
because it brings one
into hundreds of homes;
hence it is peculiarly
satisfying. Yet what
would the touring
be without books
and papers, pictures
and stories, in one's
hand, the schools to
talk about, and talk
up, and find pupils

for? Shorn of its wings truly. Yes, we must have all departments of the work.

Am I hoping against hope that some word may have come, or may yet come to you, to show that at least Mary Morrill and Annie Gould, though taken to the Yamen in Pao-ting-fu, were yet not killed? They are very much in my thoughts, and I feel personally bereaved if it

be true that they and
Rev. Horace Pitkin ha
been killed. — We are
waiting eagerly for the
reports of the St. Louis
meeting. You will have
seen and heard our
Mr. Haskell. — I am se
ning him a copy of th
notes. Will you kindl
pass yours along to
Mrs. E. E. Strong, when
done with them?

Dr. Frank S. Buckley
is now here, having a
rived two days since,
for a two or three weeks' stay.
With affectionate rega
to Mrs. Barton and you
colleagues also to Miss Pit

Miss Ellen M. Stone

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Salonica, Turkey,
Jan. 2, 1901.

A Happy New Year, and a blessed new Century, to you and to all your colleagues of the Board's offices! - Especially to Mrs. Barton, and then to Miss Pike, if she is still your stenographer, and to

Miss Chapin, if she still has her desk in your room.

In compliance with your request to send along whatever I write, of the work, I forward you a copy of my notes of my last tour, made for the Secretary's book, in our Sta-

tion. I am sorry that the first page was wrongly typo-written, so that it must be read thro' the paper. You will kindly pass it on to the ladies of the Woman's Board, when done with it.

Now, may the expectations of all hearts be filled;- "Ye shall see greater things than these!"

Faithfully yours in Christ's service,
Ellen M. Stone.

Miss Ellen M. Stone

MAR 11 1901 97

APR 20 1901

Ellen M. Stone.

Salonica, Turkey.
Feb. 23, 1901.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D., Sec'y.
Am. Board;—

My dear Dr. Barton;

We were all very much interested in reading of your proposed tour to India, with Dr. Loba, starting nett May. We were sorry, however to see that you planned to pass us by. — The times

Miss Barton and your colleagues have faithfully [illegible]

here are troublous, during the last few weeks. The Turkish government has become very alert in arresting Bulgarians, and hunting for evidences of a conspiracy against it. Important matters have been found. There have also been encounters, during this week, between members of the "Kor" Committee" and Turkish soldiers, with killed and wounded on both sides.

We know not to what this will grow. — It is still cold, and snow is upon the mountains, hence we think no general movement can be contemplated yet. — Mrs. Howe was glad to the work to be done among the men of the British Fleet, as a reason to hasten her husband's return from a tour to the Strumitsa region. The Fleet, or rather four vessels, came Friday of last week. Dr. Howe arrived the next Monday evening, and the Fleet left yesterday morning. The Admiral,

Lord Charles E. Beresford, called in person, at the mission residence, to express his thanks for the American homes opened to his men, in this city. — Once there was an item in the Congregationalist, that some Springfield church had adopted Dr. Horne as its missionary. Is it true? Which church? I would suggest that the church which adopts this first-class missionary, loses much if it does not get into personal touch with him. He would be an inspiration to them, if they knew him. — You inquire for Dr. Buckley. He has been here once, in November, and is due again to-night. We are all thankful that he can come to us occasionally. — With sincere regards to

Miss Ellen M. Stone,

2 1901

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In Quarantine,
Izaibrod, Bulgaria,
July 20, 1901.

Rev. E. E. Barton, D.D.,

My dear Dr. Barton;-

Miss Cole, Miss Matthews, and their first Bulgarian assistant, from Monastir, and I were caught here in the eleven days' quarantine imposed by Bulgaria ~~upon~~ against Turkey. In consequence we could not attend our annual meeting at Samokov. Hence I forward direct a copy of my report. Will this one answer for the Woman's Board also?

We are all very well, as are all of our companions in quarantine. We try to be thankful for the degree of comfort which is ours here, but it is hard to be detained when there is so much to do, and no real reason why we should be detained. We hear that there have been four cases of plague in Constantinople, but we are four days' distant from there, and no cases between.

Hoping that you are blessed abundantly in your varied and heavy duties,

Dear

Very sincerely yours,

Ellen M. Stone.

Salonica, Turkey.

Miss Ellen M. Stone

APR 7 1902

99

Salonica, Turkey,
Mch. 19, 1902.

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D., Foreign Secretary of Am. Board, -

My dear Dr. Barton; -

How good you and Dr. Smith and all the officers and constituency of the Board are to me! I found the most delightful letters from you, and more have continued to come. I thank you for them all, and shall improve the opportunity to come home, since you so kindly permit, as speedily as possible. Please help people to understand the nature of this country, both spiritually and

morally, that they may appreciate the need of meeting with this great problem. (Pardon a sleepy fit, here).

Do you think that one reason why God permitted us to be captured and held so long unransomed, was to show the world that this so-called Christian church, the orthodox Bulgarian, is not sufficient for the Christianization of this land? May God pour out His Spirit upon His professing children in Macedonia, and make them the power which they ought to be, against every form of wrong, and for the right!

Mrs Isilka and I have rested somewhat from the great weariness which at first oppressed us, after our release, though in our unspeakable relief and gladness at being free once more, we were scarcely conscious then of our weariness and worn-ness. We seem to ourselves to have emerged from a fearful nightmare. Thank God that at last the suspense in which we lived nearly six months, is now passed.

Mr & Mrs. Isilka are not yet free from the hearings before the Turkish Government. Dr. & Mrs. Horne still have them in their home, as they have

also Mr. & Mrs. Holloway and myself. Are they not Great-Hearts? We all have tried to do all we can to help them, but yet the Turkish government takes advantage of the fact that they are its subjects, and holds them here most unjustly, in a vain endeavor to prove either that they were parties to the conspiracy for our kidnapping, or that I was. Although the charge is so "absurd and ridiculous" as Mr. Leishman calls it in a recent telegram and in a still more recent letter, yet the Turks keep all this ~~religious~~ pretense before the world. People who know say that the charge of being ~~selfish~~ parties to the conspiracy, has always been preferred ~~and unnecessarily humble~~, ~~while~~ in the case of a kidnapping. — We know that God reigns, but ~~you~~ do not concern

ourselves ~~to~~ committees and falsehoods told about us. — Thank God, ~~we~~ ~~have~~ ~~not~~ ~~for~~ ~~others~~ ~~is~~ nothing authenticated. Pardon me, sleepiness overcomes me.

Yours, Mary E. Van Lew

Salonica, Turkey,
Mch. 20, 1902.

Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.,
Foreign Secretary American
Board, —

My dear Dr. Smith, —

Letters from you were among the first which reached me, as Dr. Howe brought them to me at Skumitsa. I thank you for them, and for all that you did to secure our freedom, then for your visit to my blessed mother, to carry her the glad message

that we were safe, and later still, your wise, tactful words published in the Congregationalist may all hearts be filled only with this thought, that each who has tried to help us, has done what he could, and be glad of the success with which God has crowned the work of all. If it should not be so, it will be a great grief to me.

I send only a few words now, as I hope soon to see you and

your associates in person.

Please give my grateful, loving remembrance to Mrs. Smith and to your daughters, and believe me

Most sincerely yours,

Ellen M. Stone.

Miss Ellen M. Stone

Salonica, March 20, 1902

Rec'd Apr. 7.

Eur. Turkey

Miss Ellen M. Stone

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APR 15 1902

24 Cary Ave., Chelsea,
April 15, 1902.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D. D.;-

My dear friend;-

I thank you for submitting to me the enclosed paragraph, and beg leave to return it as abbreviated. I am taking up my new work with the full knowledge and approval of my Station in Salonica, simply because it seems to be "the next thing" which God places before me.

What I shall do with any income or loss from following this leading, seems to those dear friends as well as to my family and myself, to lie within the province of my private affairs. Perhaps we are all mistaken, but I am acting upon this conviction, in taking the liberty which I have taken, to curtail what you submitted to me.

Understanding from the generous and re-

peated assurances from yourself and your associates ~~that I was at liberty~~ to return home, - I will hand to the treasury in a day or two, with your approval, the account of expenses for my home journey, ~~that~~ my purse may be re-imbursed.

With most faithful regards, I am yours for God and His work,

Ellen G. White -

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JUL 14 1902

The DELANO
GITHENS & CURRAN

Burlington, Iowa, July 11, 1902.

Rev. James L. Barton, For. Secy.
American Board;—

My dear Dr. Barton;—

With thanks I return to you Dr. Haskell's report of the Samokov Station, which I hope you have not needed during the ten days it has been in my possession—I could not find a moment in which to return it, before I left Boston—for Minneapolis, a week ago to-day.

The long journeys in the west, with the engagements to speak, fill the days and nights very full. Hoping that you & yours are well, I am

Most cordially yours,
Ellen M. Stone.

Miss Ellen M. Stone

Burlington, July 11. 1902.

Rec'd July 14

Miss Ellen M. Stone, 103

AUG 11 1902

En route to Louisville, Ky.,

Aug. 8, 1902.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D. D., For. Secy. A. B. C. F. M.;-

My dear Dr. Barton;-

Your note of July 30, from Silver Bay, N. Y., has reached me.

It will give me great pleasure to meet the noble friends of the

Board at its Annual Meeting in Cherlin, next October, and I have already asked Maj. Pond to exempt your dates, as well as those of the two Women's Boards, from his arrangements for me.

Mr. & Mrs. Blatchford have arranged that I shall be entertained with them, at Prof.

Courier's, I think. –

Pardon me, Dr. Barton. I did not discover that I had taken up a sheet upon which I had begun another letter.

I trust that Mrs. Barton is gaining strength this summer.

With most sincere regards to you both, I am

Faithfully yours,

Ellen M. Stone.

En route for
La Crosse, Wis,
July 29, 1902.

Dear Hattie Cole;—

AUG 13 1902

Miss Ellen M. Stone

Terre Haute, Aug. 11, 1902.

Terre Haute, Ind.,

Aug. 11, 1902.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D. D., For. Sec. Am. Board;—

My dear Dr. Barton;—

Although I wrote you so recently, I write again to enclose to you a slip which I cut from the Chicago Tribune. Do you think that Minister Leishman has received any such decoration? Just

to be made, if the United States through the Ambassador at Constantinople, or Britain, or not, as the letter seems to indicate, is the case. Very truly yours, Ellen M. Stone

at this juncture it is very necessary that no eyes should be glamored by Turkey. it seems to me, if the United States is to do its duty and improve its privilege to bring pressure to bear where it may ~~[illegible]~~ do much to make Turkey a safer place not only for American citizens resident there, but for all others-

I would like that this clipping should be returned. — While in St. Paul, Minn., about two weeks since, I saw once a statement that the U. S. Minister in Constantinople had asked the Porte what measures had been taken for the punishment of the perpetrators of the outrage in capturing Mrs. Tsilka and myself. The answer was that the Turkish Government had no responsibility in the matter; that negotiations for the release of the captive had been begun in Bulgaria. — Is this only a former rumor re-stated? I am inclined to believe so, inasmuch as General Dickinson wrote me not long

since, that he had not then sent in his last papers to Washington. I had supposed that <u>all</u> documents were before Secretary Hay about the time when he received Minister Leishman's report, in May last. Do you know whether the Government has all of the original reports, or only a summary of them? — Ever since my interview with Secretary Hay, I have regretted that I did not take a moment more of his time to tell him of Britain's plan to have 24 ships of her navy, in Salonica Harbor this month, for maneuvres, ~~this month~~. It would be an opportune time for a demand for indemnity

Miss Ellen M. Stone 105

SEP 12 1902

SEP 12 1902

24 Cary Ave.,
Chelsea, Mass.,
Sept. 11, 1902.

Dear Dr. Barton; —

In view of the statement which appeared in last evening's papers that our government is unable to decide where to locate the responsibility for the crime of my capture & imprisonment, — do you not

think that your letter,
or some letter from you,
would be of great value
to the Secretary of State,
Your own experience
as a missionary, and
thus personally know-
ing the condition of
every country ruled
over by Turkey, would
give your letter special
weight, aside from the
importance which must

be attached to it because of your official relation to the American Board. It alarms me to think what further outrages may be committed unless Turkey is taught a wholesome lesson that her land must be safeguarded so that brigandage cannot nest within her borders. Of course she will be compelled to put down Moslem brigands as well as those of so-called Christian name-

I wish that Mr. Peet's clear statements could by some means be put before Secretary Hay. - Consul-General Dickinson expects soon to return to Constantinople, he tells me in his last letter.

Most sincere regards,

Ellen M. Stone.

Miss Ellen M. Stone

SEP 15 1902

SEP 15 1902

24 Cary Ave.,
Chelsea, Mass.,
Sept. 15, 1902.

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.,
Corresponding Secretary of the
Am. Board;-

My dear Dr. Barton;-

Both my sister, Mrs. C. A. Stone, and I regret very much that we were absent from home when you called. We went to New Hampshire to spend Labor Day, and that must have

been the time of your visit, as the house has been closed at no other time.

I thank you very much for favoring me with a copy of your note to Sec. Hay of the 12th inst. It is excellent, and seemed to me winner-shine for the interests of all the Board's work in Turkey, as well as to call attention to my case.

The Woman's Board has

arranged that I shall be in Washington at their annual meeting in November. If there is any assistance which I can render, I shall be only too glad to give it, provided the case is not settled before that time. — Do you know how Mrs Spencer Eddy stands with reference to it? Is he the man who has inspired Mr. N. E. Curtis' utterances?

Very truly yours,
Ellen M. Stone.

Miss Ellen M. Stone

24 Cary Ave.,

Chelsea, Sept. 30-

SEP 30 1902
OCT 1 1902

Dear Dr. Barton;-

In reply to your note of the 26th, would reply that I never knew any man named Vicham-off. If he is of Methodist connection, it is very unlikely that he is from Macedonia. The Methodists work in No. Bulgaria, beyond the Balkans, from Sarnokov & Sophia. All Macedonia lies south &

southwest. — In three days, I may say to you privately, Dr. Barton, I think immoral care should be need in the case of such young men claiming that they are returning to Macedonia, whether they are naturalized American citizens or not. Let them find the means to return as they found it to come this country - Our Rev. Bro. Thomson may know him. Where is Mr. Thomson? -

Yours truly,

Ellert M. Stone.

Miss Ellen M. Stone.

Rev. L. Barton, D.D.,

Nov. 17, 1920

My dear Dr. Barton,

I thank you for your letter of the 12th inst., for I had wondered somewhat that I heard nothing from either you or Dr. Capen after your

visit to the Secretary.
Do you agree with him that the case has been weakened with Turkey because of treating with the brigands? I have understood that it has been the rule, — so far as I have read of the course pursued in the treatment of cases of kidnapping since we were freed, — for a demand to be

Sorrow fills my heart with every lineament I hear Mrs Stilson's "Hallelujah" [illegible]

made upon Turkey, which has been promptly paid, in the case of other nations. Does the Secretary mean because there was such long bargaining with the brigands. Have the demands of such miscreants always been unquestioningly complied with? In our case, it was one of the marvels that our lives were not taken, while the bargaining, of which we then knew nothing, was going on. — About the other

point of the troops being kept back, it was only a request apparently acceded to by the Sultan. For my impressions are very incorrect if the pursuit by his troops was not more vigilant after the ransom was paid than ever it had been before. Beside they had had all the time after our capture Sept. 3, until the date unknown to me, when the ransoming came, made that request of the Sultan, — to chase & find & punish. It seems to me that those points are not weakening the case of our government. — I return Mr. Baird's letter and its enclosure, having no knowledge by which to assist him. His quotations

Miss Ellen M. Stone
Pawtucket, R. I.,

Nov. 22, 1902.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D., Foreign Secretary Am. Board, —

My dear Dr. Barton, —

I was glad if my being in Middlebury saved you from the necessity of going thither when you could not well spare the time. Rev. Mr. Swing, the pastor, wrote me the his people gave $150. — for the work

of the Board, last Sabbath, - "the largest benevolent collection taken here during my two years pastorate." I wish it might have been twice that amount, at least. But we will hope that his desire may be realized - "for something still better, in the consecration of some of our students to this noble work of our blessed Lord."

I thank you very much for your facts

concerning ransoms and claims for indemnity. I knew of some of these facts, but have had neither time nor opportunity to look them up. I cannot feel that the case which our Government can make out, is a weak one; quite the contrary.

I thank you for the clipping, which I would like to keep a little longer. I have no knowledge whatever of the man therein described save what I have read in the papers, and what a Bulgarian friend once told me more than two years ago, — expressing

relief that he was there in confinement in Sophia. — I shall be glad to see Mr. Peet as soon as may be after his arrival. Thank you for telling me when he sailed.

With most cordial regards to yourself and Mrs. Barton, and praying that the Spirit of God will guide all in the settlement of our question with Turkey, for the advancement of right, I am

Faithfully yours,

Ellen M. Stone.

DEC 1 1902
DEC 1 1902

Miss Ellen M. Stone
9 Crescent Ave.,
Chelsea, Mass.-

Dec. 1, 1902.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D.;-

My dear Sir;-

I thank you most heartily for your note of the 26. Truly God's mercies to us as a family are mighty and our hearts must ever praise Him. Your generous estimate of my work is most encouraging, and I thank you for it. — To-day I must leave again for another three weeks' round of engagements under Major Pond; but for several days I shall be in the vicinity of New York, to-night at Harlem, Tuesday, Brooklyn, Wednesday at Trenton & New Brunswick, N. J. - My brother at 53 State St, will ~~also~~ know my address, or Major Pond at Everett's House, New York. I wish I might see Mr. Peet as soon as

possible after his arrival. —
I am sorry not to have seen your copy of your com. to the State Dept. Mr. Locke called upon me last Monday, immediately following my arrival in our new home. He said, that you had shown it to him, and that he had suggested two changes, my judgment is that his exception to the expression "a public highway" which is the expression used by Mr Pet in a letter to me, is not well taken. There is no other traveled road, save a path over the mountains which is practicable only during the summer months. The only road in all that part of the province, must be "a public highway", altho it is but a mountain path, traversed on horseback. — About Mr. Baird's translation of the testéré I, of course, do not know. The testéré was what I had. I have never had a friend, nor has any other lady missionary in our mission, in my time. Mrs Baird ought to be an author ity on such translation. Excuse me for troubling you. Regretting that I cannot see you before I leave on the 1 o'clock train, I am, Yours faithfully, E. M. Stone.

Miss Ellen M. Stone,

DEC 3 1902

New York, Dec. 2, 1902.

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.; —
Sec. Am. American Board;

My dear Dr. Barton:—

Many thanks for your letter received this morning. Informed by it, I called at once at Dr. Creegan's office, and have just succeeded in having a few words with Dr. Peet. He is only on a commission, hence not free, as Dr. Post and Mr. Eddy were also with him. However I was most grateful for ~~all the~~ opportu-

nity to see him at all.
He thought that the Com-
mission would go on to
Washington next week,
but I did not understand
that he is sure to go to
Boston first. Perhaps I was
wrong. Others were with us,
and it was not easy to talk
feeling that they were
waiting for him.

If he does anything
with reference to my cases
it must be of course as
an individual, and
quite distinct from his

work in the Commission, with which he has come to America. But as one of the Rom-
ronning Cons as well as Treas. of the
Turkish Missions, his influence at
Washington would surely have a weight
record to move, of the Office who has interests at stake.
I am sure that you will take all possi-
ble advantage of the fact that he will
soon be in Washington, for securing a
suitable placing of the imperative need
of a large claim for indemnity for,

the outrage against our Government, perpetrated in the case of my capture and captivity, — for the sake of the lives of all American missionaries in Turkey present and future.

Yours heartily,

Ellen M. Stone

Address me still 24 Bary Ave., Chelsea

I hope that my brother on State St. may be informed when Mr. Peet will be in Boston, that he may see him, if possible take him to my brother.

E. M. S.

Miss Ellen M. Stone.

Rec'd JAN 17 1903
Ans'd JAN 20 1903

Brooklyn, N. Y.,
Jan. 16, 1903.

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.,
For. Secy. Am. Board;-

My dear Dr. Barton;—

Please accept my thanks for all your communications to me as a "faithful correspondent"- They are always welcome as from your hand.

I had the pleasure of spending the Holiday Season with my Blessed Mother, and saw the rest of our family to frequently enough, as

Yamborl;- she will say a word in a national school as a convert of Miss Chidlow, whom Miss Nelson aided to go to Turkestan, and who never gives any aid to the Diversion Dinner her returns.

Very Truly Yours,
Ellen M. Stone

well as other friends, to keep me perpetually rejoicing in the contrast between my condition this year and that of last year. From Mrs. Tsilka too I had good word of her condition and that of her baby and her husband, and such word is always most eagerly looked for by me.

Dr. Creegan's letter should have had an earlier answer, could I have found the time. I know Miss Donka,

(not Antonia) Panayoteva, and have known her many years. I gladly assisted her to obtain her education, and to gain the position of assistant teacher in our Moravian school. It was a great disappointment to me that she did not commend herself to Miss Cole & Miss Matthews. Later she was with Miss Matthews in the Samokov school, but she had been dropped from that position, not from lack of ability or qualification, but because there is always trouble where she is. Certainly the most of her

experienced missionary friends advised most strongly against her leaving her widowed mother alone with the burden of several little boys upon her for support and education; but she persisted in borrowing money, and coming to America. Some of the missionary children, as Mrs. Bond's daughters, Mrs. Kennedy and Mrs. Kinman, encouraged her to come, and have helped her to find opportunities to address churches, C. E. societies, etc.; which I understand she is still doing. Hence I do not feel called upon to help her in the way Dr. Creegan suggests. I believe that when she returns to Bulgaria (she is from

P. S.

This note is confidential to yourself, Dr. Barton. All that need be said to Dr. Creegan is that having assisted her and her mother until Miss Fernandeva was in a condition to assist herself and ~~them~~ her family, and render excellent service while working in your lands ~~to~~ her own people, I do not now feel that I can help her further.

E. M. S.

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Miss Ellen M. Stone
Rec'd ~~Ans'd~~ FEB 20 1903

NEW AVELINE,
THE RANDALL,
FT. WAYNE, IND.

THE CRAWFORD.

A. B. JONES

Ans'd FEB 25 1903

CRAWFORDSVILLE, IND., Feb. 17, 1903.

Secretary J. L. Barton, D.D.,-

My dear Dr. Barton,-

I am well aware that I have detained these two letters, from Mr. Bond and from Mr. Haskell, quite too long. I trust, however, that you have not needed them. I should find it hard indeed to endure Mr. Haskell's allusion to myself and to my course in America, were it not that his next letter to me was very kind in all its expressions. I miss your good letters, and the bits of news which you gave me concerning the movement of negotiations. I am glad to learn anything you will tell me. Any letter sent me at 24 Cary Av., Chelsea, is promptly forwarded.

Hoping that you are all well,

I am, Faithfully yours,
Ellen M. Stone.

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Miss Ellen M. Stone,

Rec'd MAR 13 1903

~~DUBUQUE, IOWA.~~ Ans'd MAR 13 1903 190

Carthage, Mo., Mch. 10, 1903.

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D., Foreign Secretary American Board;—

My dear Dr. Barton;—

I saw an item in to-day's Kansas City Star, which makes me hope that the concessions asked by our government, at the instance of the Commission which waited upon it, with large requests on behalf of our American missionary interests in Turkey,— have been granted. This item particularized permission granted to wives & children of naturalized American subjects, to join their husbands and fathers in America; also concessions made to the College at Beirut, & merely said there were other concessions. Are you at liberty to

DUBUQUE, IOWA, _____ 190

tell me if all has been secured which the members of the Commission hoped to secure?

Of course, I am quite aware that different interests must be kept distinct, if success is to be secured. If this matter has been satisfactorily disposed of, I have been given to understand that as soon as ~~was~~ should be deemed best, the demand which our Government will make for satisfaction for the indignity committed against it, through my capture and imprisonment for nearly six months, threatened with death repeatedly, and always exposed to it in multitudes of ways, — will be brought up, and that it will be so presented and insisted upon,

DUBUQUE, IOWA, _____ 190

that the United States Government will become a name more honored because more feared, than it has hitherto been honored by Turkey. It will be shown how she demands protection for her subjects, who are fully complying with all the regulations of Turkey, yet who are subjected to such dangers to life and limb and to every midnight tip, even when holding the teskéré of Turkey.

You speak of inquiries concerning the time of my return East. It has just been decided to-day that I shall be due at home again May 16, after quite an extended tour of the Pacific Coast, and home

through the Dacotahs and Canada.—

With most cordial regards and praying daily that right may be done and the yoke of the oppressor may be broken I am

Always faithfully your

Ellen M. Stone—

Miss Ellen M. Stone
REC'D MAR 24 1903

Salina, Kans.,
March 21, 1903.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D. D., Secretary
Am. Board;—

My dear Dr. Barton;—

I thank you for your letter of the 14th, and now send you an itinerary, which Major Pond has prepared without my knowledge. This will tell you approximately my location, until I can reach home in May. Also by re-reading your letter, I see that you have one from the Major himself, as my large envelope is quite

unnecessary. — I trust you will have just as lovely weather in Kansas and Missouri as is our portion now. It was all rain, fog, and mud at first, but now it is budding leaf & springing grass, & glorious skies.

No, you did not read me the letter to Lees Mary. I would have counted it a privilege to have heard it; but may we soon hear good tidings all around, from Constantinople.

I shall be most

grateful if you will keep me informed.

With most cordial regards to dear Mrs. Barton. I am

Faithfully yours,

Ellen M. Stone.

Miss Ellen M. Stone 115

REC'D MAY 26 1903

9 Crescent Ave.,
Chelsea,
May 25, 1903.

Rev. J. L. Barlow, D. D.;-

Dear Dr. Barlow;-

Prof. E. G. Howe of Urbana, Ill., did me the great favor to send me a copy of Mr. W. E. Curtis's articles in the Chicago Record-Herald for May 16 (?) and ~~again~~ for May 21. May God

yours.

bless you, Dr. Barlow,
for coming to my
rescue! — The burden
from the continual
misrepresentations
of Mr. Curtis, was
becoming too heavy;
yet I was not in
the least inclined
to answer him, feel-
ing that the truth
would appear some
time. — I have made
no demand for any

indemnity. When I received a personal letter from Minister Leishman, perhaps 2 weeks ago, saying that the other matter was going on satisfactorily, though slowly, and would be finished not long hence, he believed, — I addressed a letter to Secretary Hay, telling him that, in view of that fact, and that the time might now be near when he would push the matter for indemnity to the U. S. government, for the

indignity done to it, though my
capture and imprisonment for
nearly six months, — I wished to men-
tion a matter to him. The one was
the fact which you adduced in proof
that the Turkish government did not
aid in paying the ransom, but quite
the contrary; the other, the remarks
of two village friends of mine, the
first day after we had been released:
"It is not your people who have paid
this ransom, we have paid it!" ac-
companied by deep dejection of man

ner, which made me
understand that they
were staggering under
the misfortune of some
new tax which they
understood to be levied
on account of our ransom.
~~indeed too~~ I have always
supposed that the
early the Turkish
government was sais-
ning the money which
it expected it would
speedily be called upon
to part. You rightly say
that I have not changed
my position. This letter
was only for clearness

upon those two points. —

When a week had passed, and reporters harassed me, although I saw none of them, and gave them not one word, — I wrote again to Secretary Hay, making it "personal and private;" in this note I expressed my surprise that a communication clearly designed for himself alone, should have been allowed in the hands of any subordinate of his, who should have given the matter to the public, and in such a misleading form. All is now quiet. — This is all there is about that. It is my wish that you may use well and encourage, believe me most faithfully yours,

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Miss Ellen M. Stone,

Chelsea, June 22,
9 Crescent Ave.:-

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D.,-

My dear Dr. Barton,-

This evening
I came upon your
note of last Decem-
bers which enclosed
the following trans-
lation made by
Mr. Aklsander of
Samakov. I must

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have overlooked your request that it be returned to you for reference. Pardon me for this over-sight, and believe me always

Sincerely yours,

Ellen M. Stone.

Miss Ellen M. Stone,

117 Rec'd SEP 17 1903

Ans'd SEP 23 1903

9 Crescent Ave.,

Chelsea, Sept. 17, 1903.

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.;-

Foreign Secy. A. B. C. F. M.;-

My dear Dr. Barton;-

It was good news which I read to our circle at the breakfast-table this morning, that the dear old Board has closed its debt with a small balance in its treasury, and $50,000 increase in donations! That is where the increase ought to come from, if we at all appreciate the call of our God to Go Forward, to enter the doors which He is so marvelously opening to His people.

I thank you for your very kind invitation to be at the

annual meeting in Manchester, and assurance of a welcome there. I had already seen my name in a paper as among those to be present, and had received one of Mrs. Ross's reminders that she likes advance copies, when as yet I knew not if I were expected to be there, and if there, if I might not have the privilege of silent listening. May I ask enlightenment on that point, that I may understand the meaning of this request?

What a sorrow has fallen upon our hearts in the going of Mrs. Alice Gordon Gulick from earth! The brave, sorely stricken heart of the mother is at last comforted.

Truly these are awful days for poor Macedonia. And the Lord has true, humble, praying followers there, of at least four

nationalities! Will He not hear their despairing cries, and send them help from elsewhere, if the Powers, whose duty it is clearly to succor them from this terrible condition in which they placed them, - twenty five years ago, - will not? Oh that our own free land would demand that mercy be shown to these poor Christians, - instead of continuing to stand by to see Turkey wield its "free hand" to massacre the helpless aged, and mothers with their little children! -

I will send you an article for your Young People's Department, but cannot do it yet, dear Dr. Barton -

Very truly yours, with cordial remembrance to Mrs. Barton,

Ellen M. Stone.

Miss Ellen M. Stone, 118

Rec'd OCT 20 1903

9 Crescent Ave.,
Chelsea,
Oct. 19, 1903.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D., For. Sec.
Am. Board; —

Dear Dr. Barton; —

Allow me to return to you the enclosed letter and note from Mr. Bond, with my heartiest thanks for the use of them.

They were in my hand to return to you last Thursday evening, but I could not find the opportunity, and now can only hope that you have not needed them earlier.

How it makes one feel that something must be done

without a day's delay, to read such details of such horrors, and to know that they are only too true! I almost envy my monastic friends in thus being free to succor these terribly suffering ones. From the Razlog District I hear of 1500 or more refugees who have fled into Bulgaria, from their homes in what was to them almost another New England. May God have mercy on them!!

May the Am. Board and the entire missionary cause receive a marked quickening in consequence of your recent Annual Meeting, and the burning of the hearts of the people God-ward! - Yours faithfully,

Ellen M. Stone.

Miss Ellen M. Stowe

REC'D NOV 5 1903

Jackson, Mich.;-

Nov. 2, 1903.

My dear Dr. Barton;-

In Lansing, Saturday night, I received your two letters of recent date, for which I thank you. Because of engagements made previous to the time when you spoke to me of the Fremont Temple meetings, I cannot reach Boston until next Thursday night, after the W.B.M. meeting at New Haven.

I thank you for telling me of money for relief

work. I am collecting too, for Industrial School in Salonica, Girls' Boarding School building in Samokov, and one for Miss Clarke's Kindergarten in Sofia, must all stand aside for this one paramount need, — to save precious lives! — It would be a great help to me if you would allow me the reading of any communications which you would permit me to read, from any of our missionaries in Bulgaria or Macedonia, received within last two weeks. If I could find them at my home, 9 Crescent Ave., Chelsea, Thursday night, I would return them to you promptly. — May God pour out His Spirit mightily upon His people! — Faithfully yours,

Ellen M. Stone

Miss Ellen M. Stone

Rec'd NOV 11 1903

9 Crescent Ave.,
Chelsea, Mass.,

Nov. 10, 1903.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D. D., For. Sec.
American Board;—

Dear Dr. Barton;—

Many thanks for your kindness in sending me Miss Barton's address. I have not yet succeeded in putting my eye upon the appeal from the Century Club, in any paper, on behalf of Macedonia. I think that such a popular gathering as you suggest, should be held with as little delay as possible. Am sorry that I am

off to-morrow for New York State, to return on Monday for I should be interested to know the plans. The terrible suffering there demands speediest possible help.

Faithfully yours,
Ellen M. Stone

COPY OF ADD'R

Miss Ellen M. Stone

Rec'd NOV 23 1903

9 Crescent Ave.,

Ans'd NOV 23 1903

Chelsea, Mass.,

Nov. 21, 1903.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D. D.; - Foreign Secy. Am. Board; -

Dear Dr. Barton; -

I fear that in a moment of ill-considered speech, this afternoon, an expression fell from my lips which I should never have uttered thoughtfully. It was only when you repeated the phrase, that I became conscious that I must have used it. I could never consciously refer to the two Bulgarian pastors, who were then in the

thought of both of us, in any other terms than those of loving respect, even though deprecating what seems to have been an ill-considered action on somebody's part in sending them hither to collect relief funds.

You entirely misunderstood me if you thought that any word of mine implied any doubt of their entire integrity with reference to funds. I he thought in my mind rather had reference to the politics of their country, which hold so large a place in the minds of the people, whether they are at home or elsewhere. For the sake of their

[over]

parishes, I hope that Pastors Popoff and Tumadjieff will not be obliged to be absent long upon this mission; yet, as they seem to have the endorsement of missionaries, perhaps they will care for the church at the capital as they have arranged for the community at Konstendil.-

In the interests of a true understanding of the case, I am as always,

Faithfully yours in service,

Ellen M. Stone-

If I can assist in the work of your Relief Committee, in any way, it will give me pleasure to do so. I have written an article for the Christ. and it is sealed-

REC'D JAN 7 1904
ANS'D JAN 7 1904

3 copies

9 Crescent Ave.,
Chelsea, Mass.,
Jan. 6, 1904.

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D., Foreign Secretary of the American Board;—

My dear Dr. Barton;—

Allow me first to thank you for your letter of the 4th inst., in which you enclosed a copy of Acting Secretary Loomis' communication to you bearing date of Dec. 31. Your action in sending it to me and to Mr. Haskell was certainly "in the interests of perfect frankness and clear understanding,"—nay it was even more,—fulfilling the conditions of the Golden Rule of Christ.

As I have had time to think of Mr. Loomis' words, and of his quotation from Minister Leishman's note, I have not been able to overcome the astonishment which filled my mind, upon reading them. Neither the one nor the other has

probably ever seen me or heard me speak; how then are they so positive of the truth of that which they ascribe to me? Even if they have seen any newspaper allusions, they know how little weight can safely be attached to them for correctness.

I have been conscious of such care in never endorsing the political movement in Macedonia, — although I have worked of late to secure relief for the poor sufferers there; — that this accusation is as astounding to me as it seems undeserved. I had just refused, as you know, to appear at Park St. Church, last Sabbath evening, although importuned by Mr. Sandoff thrice, and by Mr. Sandoff with Mr. Stephanoff twice, — to speak there "on behalf of the sufferers." These young men were willing to submit to me beforehand a copy of what they proposed to say, lest I should run any risk of being compromised in the mind of any one, as sympathizing with the Revolutionary movement; but my answer to them was steadfast: — The public is aware that Mr. Stephanoff came to the United States on a political mission, in the interests of the Macedonian revolutionists. I have never had anything to do with that movement. I can never

have anything to do with it, not by so much as by appearing ~~out~~ on the platform with those who are identified with it. I am a missionary, and we missionaries have nothing to do with politics. I refused the young Bulgarians for the same reason for which you, Dr. Barton, refused them, lest by participating in their meeting, color might be given to the suspicions of the Turkish government, of which you were already aware. This is the same old cry which has sounded out from Dr. Hamlin's time, if not earlier, against American schools and American missionaries; and last Sabbath evening Mr. Mead plainly set forth the reason for it.

The plainest things which I have ever said concerning Macedonia and Turkey, were said before the Annual Meetings of the ~~Bulgarian Evangelic~~ Board, at Berlin and at Manchester, because it seemed to me that those were the occasions where they should be said, before those who might feel that it was their province to act, as they had the power, should they deem themselves called upon to exercise it, on behalf of those terribly suffering Christians among whom some of their missionaries labor. When nothing further has been done by

the Board, have I not accepted their decision, and rested in it?

I laid to heart Dr. Gates' words which in your presence, Dr. Barlow, he addressed to me at Oberlin, and for the sake of the large missionary interests in the Turkish Empire, Asiatic as well as European,—have held my peace even when it seemed like treachery to be silent, in the face of the unspeakable sufferings of dear people whom I knew personally in Macedonia.

You know that I refused Mr. Klopsch' overtures to me to write on behalf of the sufferers, for his Christian Herald, until you yourself encouraged me to do it; for I feared that I might be misunderstood in the very way in which I am now misunderstood.

I am puzzled about the case, whenever my mind reverts to it. Mr. Leishman's every word written to me has been courteous and kind. The strain in which Mr. Loomis writes, is the same which the State Department has used toward me, if we believe the published letters of Mr. Wm. E. Curtis, — since he had access to my communications to that Department, months since. To-night light comes

to my mind through the suggestion which arises in my thought: — "Has" Is it not possible that Mr. Curtis has reached Constantinople, in his tour around the world? "The last mention which I saw of him located him in Spain; but that was some ago. If he is in Constantinople, or has been, I can understand why these accusations are, from Minister Leishman, although I am ish in the dark as ever as to the reason Mr. Curtis' enmity toward me personally. The question which has arisen in my mind is founded, may God forgive me for its im tableness. If it is borne out by facts, to my ind the enigma is solved.

I can and do control my words and ds, but cannot be held responsible for im representations of what I say and do.

Thanking you, dear Dr. Barton, for your d wishes for this New Year's blessings upon and mine, allow me to reciprocate most heartily for a full measure of them to you you and yours, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Ellen M. Stone.

Chelsea, Jan. 6, 1904

Miss Ellen M. Stone.

Rec'd JAN 13 1904

9 Crescent Ave.,
Chelsea,

Ans'd JAN 15 1904

Jan. 12, 1904.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D., For. Sec'y.
Am. Board,—

Dear Dr. Barton,—

It seemed to me that it might do good if the enclosed translation could appear in the daily press. Miss A Krabova, condensed and translated it from the Zarnitsa received this week. Its editor, Prof. Tsanoff, can be relied upon, you well know, for accuracy concerning his facts. If remuneration is given for such work, it should be to Miss E. T. A Krabova, in my care.

Yours truly,
Ellen M. Stone.

Miss Ellen M. Stone

REC'D JUN 6 1904

9 Crescent Ave.,

ANS'D JUN 6 1904

Chelsea, Mass.,

June 3, 1904.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D.; - For. Sec'y -

My dear Dr. Barton; -

Allow me to thank you for your thoughtful kindness in sending to me excepts from the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of our Mission. I have also had a look at the whole, and want to add a word that my judgment goes very strongly with that resolution, which suggests several ways by which Dr. J. H. Clarke may be well cared for, even should his son, Rev. W. P. Clarke, be transferred to Monastir, without the necessity, as Mrs.

March wrote me her view of it, — of Miss Clarke closing even temporarily her very important beginning of work in Sofia. It would be exceedingly difficult for her ever to regain what she will lose, should she intermit her school there. Surely Dr. Clarke could be well cared for ~~with~~ by his sister in Philippopolis or his son in Monastir, even if arrangements could not be made for him to board somewhere in Samokov. But I am sanguine that Mr. & Mrs. Holway will be able to occupy Monastir before very long.

I am so glad to know that the Prudential Com. approve of the Mission's call for reenforcements. Now may just the right men and women be found! I do hope that one family will be for Al-

bania. Such plucky souls as Miss Kyrias ought to have a first-class American missionary family to help her and her associates build up the work, for which they have laid an enduring foundations. The strain of last summer and of this year is too hard even for such brave souls, to bear too long alone.

I went to your office to inquire for any photos. of the Salonica Orphanage & Industrial School, — new photos, or old, and could find nothing any pictures of European Turkey. I should be greatly obliged if you have any which you would send me for Dr. House; also any letter which would tell me of that matter of which you spoke to me, when last I saw you, — the attempt to turn relief funds to other & political uses. A letter from Dr. Mar to-day laments that he has such limited sum for the people in

Adrianople, Bulgaria. I understand that he has a large army. Very truly yours, Owen R. Lovejoy.

Ans'd AUG 31 1904

Will Dr. Barton please read the accompanying letter from Miss Cole, just received, and return this same to me? —

If in any way Mr. Holway could yet go to Macedonia this autumn, and Rev. Tom P. Clarke assist in Salonica this year, it seems to me exceedingly desirable. We cannot afford to lose Mr. & Mrs. Holway from the field entirely, as we lost Mr. Barton and Miss Cole in years past, by putting the gentlemen up on that Bulg. & Mac. Committee. Then we had to [illegible] the overtures and [illegible] for Miss Cole [illegible] Bulgarian work [illegible] to [illegible] if they did not see fit to pay early as much salt as he thought they ought to make, then they could not hear to be shut up in the school-room, doing work which some well-fitted Bulgarian teacher ought to do. Miss Cole of course is wrong if she thinks Dr. Clarke's salary should be diverted to provide for a Bulgarian teacher, but I agree with her that Mr. Holway should not spend his time in teaching lower grade classes, or in teaching any classes for any considerable portion of the time. He is a rare man for evangelistic work, & is fearless for Macedonia. You doubtless have letters

from which you can judge better than I whether a change is possible, at this date.

You should know that a little one, their first, is expected in Rev. Wm. Clarke's household, this autumn, and of course it would be, as Miss Cole suggests, a great comfort to them if they could come to have other [illegible] family [illegible], and [illegible] above, for the first [illegible] [illegible] possible.

[illegible]

[illegible]

Boston —
Aug 30 - 1864

125

Rec'd OCT 1 1904
Ans'd OCT 1 1904

9 Crescent Ave,
Chelsea, Sept. 30, '04.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D., Cor. Secretary
Am. Board,—

Dear Dr. Barton;—

In looking over some papers, the other day, I came across this a. w. of e of notes from Mr. Bond, of which you allowed me the use. I have an impression that some one said they need not be returned, but as I am not sure about that, and as I have used them all that is necessary, I send them, asking your pardon if they have been detained too long—

May I ask if you or any one connected with the Board

will present any memorial to the Peace Congress, looking toward relief for Macedonia and Armenia, and greater freedom for philanthropic and Christian work in these countries?

Enclosed I send envelope for reply.

Grateful for the statement of Treasurer upon the profits, relative to the enlarged gifts of the Women to the Board, — which will make the burden of the debt temporarily upon the Board less heavy, — I remain

Yours faithfully,

Ellen M. Stone.

Ellen M. Stone

Chelsea Mass

Sept 30 - 1904

Ellen M. Stone. Rec'd MAR 14 1905 126
9 Crescent Ave.,
Chelsea, Mass.,
Mch. 13, 1905.

Dear Dr. Barton;—

Accept my thanks for the reading of the enclosed letters from Rev. L. S. Ostrander. They make me feel more strongly than ever how very important it is that a deputation be sent from the Board this spring, if possible,

for a closer and more per-
sonal acquaintance with
the work and with con-
ditions in the European
Turkey Mission, than
is possible without
such a visit. Only nine
days of traveling time,
on a fast steamer, suf-
ficed to bring me home
from Salonica, Mace-
donia. — The gathering
of both the Mission

and of the Bulgarian Evangelical Society at Sophia would very much facilitate conferences with the Deputation, soon after arrival on the field, which would be particularized by the more individual inspection of stations and workers afterward. I wish the prayer of the Missions to the Bulgarians, Bohemians, & Spaniards, might be

answered this spring, by such a visit. I was glad that you were able to visit Miss Martha and Mrs. Lane, a few days since. That is a grand work of Mrs. Lane's for her brother and niece, as well as for the Kindergarten work in Sophia, — and ultimately for the American Board. May God bless her in doing it! —

Very sincerely yours,
Ellen M. Stone.

Ellen M. Stone.
9 Crescent Avenue,
Chelsea, Mass.,
Mch. 20, 1905.

Rec'd MAR 21 1905
Ans'd MAR 1 1905

My dear Dr. Barton;—

You have the heartiest thanks of my my brothers and their families, as well as mine, for your words of true sympathy upon the passing on of our blessed mother. She

was ever a blessing to us while she lived in our midst. She will be evermore a blessing now that she has gone before us to her Heavenly Mansion, and is even more fully than was possible while her willing soul was held in its earthly limitations, — a ministering spirit. "Her children rise up, and call her blessed" —

We gladly linger in thoughts of her, and try in imagination to follow her, where she has entered in; but the closed door in that direction enjoins us to go on with our Lord's work on earth, until He summons us too to Himself.

My hearty congratulations are yours for the large gift from Mr. Rockefeller, for the Board's educational institutions. A newspaper report says that Passumalai College, Ceylon, will have $38,500 of

it. May I ask how much the C. & G. D. of Sahudkov, Bulgaria, will receive, and how much the G. B. S. there toward its greatly needed building?

Possibly this newspaper report may be as foundationless as some others of which I know; but fortunately we know from unimpeachable source that the gift to the Board is a bona fide one.

I take the liberty to enclose a copy of a tribute to Mother's memory, written by one of my brothers.

Gratefully yours, Ellen M. Stone.

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MRS. LUCY WATERMAN STONE.

Mrs. Lucy Waterman Barker, widow of Benjamin Franklin Stone, entered into rest at her late residence, 9 Crescent avenue, at 7.40 o'clock Wednesday morning, aged 92 years, 1 month, 7 days.

This good woman has been a resident of this city for nearly 45 years, having removed with her husband and family, April 1, 1860, from Roxbury, Mass. She soon after united with the First Congregational Church, then under the pastoral care of Rev. Albert H. Plumb, D.D., being at the time of her decease its oldest member.

She was a descendant of the Pilgrims, being in the eighth generation from Captain Myles Standish. She was an ideal mother, making home the best place on earth to all her family, and one of the dearest places to her large circle of friends.

She was a Christian patriot. When our country called for volunteers in 1861 she gave two sons for the nation's service, her eldest, George F., as a member of the Twenty-second Massachusetts Regiment, and her second son Edwin C., in the navy, on board the Minnesota, flagship of the North Atlantic Squadron. Both served faithfully throughout the war. George at one time was held captive at Libby Prison in Richmond, Va. Later, in 1862, she gave her husband to the service, as a member of the Forty-third Massachusetts Regiment. He served with fidelity, and also received an honorable discharge.

She was a Christian missionary at heart, and early consecrated to her Master's service her only daughter, who for 23 years served faithfully in Bulgaria and Macedonia. It was during Ellen's six months' captivity among the Macedonian mountains, that God called home her eldest son, and the brave little mother said, "God has sent me this sorrow to help me bear the living sorrow;" and when the cablegram came containing the one word "safe," she lifted her hands, saying, "Then God has more work for Ellen to do." Since the daughter's return home, her chief object in life has been to minister to the mother's comfort during her declining years.

Four children survive her, Edwin C. of Melrose Highlands, Ellen M. and Charles A. of Chelsea and Perley A. of Haverhill.

Shortly before her departure she gazed steadfastly upward, and, lifting her outstretched hands, welcomed some heavenly messenger, unseen by mortal eyes. Her life-work is ended, full of years and crowned with blessings.

MRS. LUCY WATERMAN BARKER STONE was a rare woman. The self-sacrifice she manifested was unusual, even for a woman living in the period of our Civil War. Her life showed Christian faith, Christian courage and Christian joy in a degree not seen every day. No wonder children of such a mother should be ready to risk their lives in the service of others! [Editorial.]

—The Chelsea Gazette, Saturday, March 4, 1905.

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Miss Ellen M. Stone

Rec'd MAR 25 1905

9 Crescent Avenue,

Ans'd MAR 1 1905

Chelsea, Mass.

March 25, 1905 -

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D., Foreign Secretary of the Am. Board; -

Dear Dr. Barton; -

Miss Alice Stone Blackwell send the bearer, Mrs. Richards, to me this morning. He tells me that he is the son of an American father and an English mother; that his associations

have been more with English, Americans and French residents of Constantinople than with his own people; that he is a graduate of Robert College, and from 1896-99 held a kind of secretaryship and was taxidermist to Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria living in the palace.

He seems to have been in business which have called him to England, Russia, and South Africa, as well as now to the U. S.

You will quickly know whether there is any place in connection with missionary work in the East, elsewhere than in Turkey - or if you have anything to suggest to him in the way of finding an opening here.

Very truly yours,
E. M. Stone.

Rec'd JUN 12 1905

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157 Chestnut St., Chelsea

June 10, 1905.

Rev. James L. Barton, D. D.,

Foreign Secretary of the American Board; -

Dear Dr. Barton; -

Your note of yesterday has just reached me, and I will answer it frankly, trusting you to regard my letter as in confidence. I have already told you in part concerning Mrs. Deemchevski, when I was talking with you last relative to Miss Maltbie; but you did not recognize evidently that Mrs. Scott was writing concerning the same person.

Mrs. Scott is mistaken in saying that "Mrs. Deemchevski is ordered a month's rest." She has the entire year of absence from the school, and has been in England since some time last autumn, with her two daughters. Mrs. Deemchevski was my pupil as well as Miss Maltbie's, so that I know the case well. It was she of whom I spoke to you as receiving special lessons in music gratuitously from Mr. Sleeper, at Miss Maltbie's request, when she did not permit a full-pay pupil, who was all ready to pay any price for her lessons, - to receive any. I did not object to Spaska Kirova's (now Mrs. Deemchevski) receiving lessons, of course not, especially as Miss Maltbie hoped that she might become the music-teacher in our school, as she did; my objection was that she should receive so much extra time and attention that it should result in gross injustice to a classmate of hers, who was of a family much higher in the social scale than Spaska's, and who married into a family of excellent standing, where she still feels her limitations in a musical way, because of this favoritism toward Spaska.

Dr. Kingsbury was just as unwisely fond of Mr. Deemchevski as was Miss Maltbie of S[illegible] [illegible] in his home as his son.

Miss Maltbie, of Spaska, Beside having him in his home as his son, when symptoms of pulmonary weakness developed both in him and in his younger brother, several years after the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Deemchevski, and the birth of their two daughters, Dr. Kingsbury secured money from someone in America, (I think it was $400., from Mrs. S. D. Warren of Boston), - and sent the two brothers to Switzerland, if I reme mber rightly, or possibly to the Tyrolese Alps. Here the younger died, and thence the elder returned to Samokov to die. He was truly a spiritually-minded teacher during those last months of his life. The missionaries were all "nursing fathers and mothers" to him and to his young family. Nothing more could have been done for any missionary in his sickness and burial, than was done for Mr. Deemchevski. The children had always called Miss Maltbie Grandmother, and she was that to them, and a mother to their mother. No one would say a word against that, I least of all, had it not resulted in great injustice to many others. We missionaries are sent to a nation or to nations; not to one person or family.

Mrs. Deemchevski is inordinately ambitious, and has insisted upon having her home an American home, as far as she could compass it; her table, dress, and style of living, the same.

When she wished a year of musical study in Dresden, Miss Clarke boarded the two children half the year, and Miss Maltbie took them into the school for the other half, beside supplementing Mrs. D.'s finances; while I introduced her to an influential friend in Dresden, who was of great assistance to her.

Mrs. Scott does not know that Mrs. Deemchevski's salary has been one of the largest, if not the largest, of any teacher in our Samokov school, - with more perquisites besides than anyone knows, save Miss Maltbie, who has always kept the control of the finances as much as

possible, in her own hands.

When I knew that the Samokov Station had granted Mrs. D. a year's absence, I said " Miss Maltbie will come to America this year!" So she did, and told me how sorry she was that she could not bring Mrs. D. and her children with her. For a long time before she came, Miss Maltbie was begging money with which to send Mrs. D. abroard. Her nephew, Mr. Seymour, sent me some of her letters, but I answered that I had been glad to help Mrs. D. to obtain her education, (she was a stipendiary), but felt no call to do anything more, for one for whom so much has been done that she feels herself lifted far above her people, and has little in common with them. Mr. Seymour succeeded in getting money, although I know not how much in the aggregate. Miss Maltbie had also appealed to Miss Wingate, and she was raising money in the West, while Miss Maltbie herself borrowed $200. from the Tsilka's, without telling them that it was for Mrs. D., and also enlisted Mrs. Lane's sympathies. Esther Deemchevski was sent to Mentone, France, two winters ago, at the expense of several friends, from whom Miss Maltbie begged the aid.

Now I cannot conceive how Mrs. D. has persuaded her English friends that she is in such need, and has been left destitute by her co-workers in Bulgaria. She was not sent to England "penniless," certainly not; and has not been left there destitute. She is a woman of extravagant tastes, and has been able, through the kindness of her missionary friends, to indulge them to an unusual degree, for one in her circumstances. Although so much has been done for her and her children, I have never known that she has tried to help even her own mother and the younger children, who were very poor, - or her husband's family.

For years the Samokov ~~station~~ missionaries seconded Miss Maltbie's

desires for her protégé, even when they admitted the manifest injustice thereby caused to others. Within a year or two, however, they seem to have resolved to do so no more; and Miss Maltbie is very much grieved, in consequence. If Mrs. Deemchevski is about returning to Samokov, you will find it more difficult, Dr. Barton, I think, to persuade Miss Maltbie to remain much longer in America, as she is determined to continue her in her position as teacher of music.

Just in this connection, allow me to inquire whether in your opinion Miss Mary Long and her sister would not be very helpful, somewhere in Bulgaria? Miss Mary, for her proficiency in music and the languages, and Miss Rosa as the matron of a school? The music in Samokov would have suffered during the year past, had Miss Long been there. Miss Maltbie herself fears it has suffered under Mrs. Maltbie, her cousin, who happened to be in Leipsic, on a vacation, and went to Bulgaria, only to oblige her. Rev. Robert Thomson knows the Misses Long well; his opinion concerning them would be of value. They love the East, where Mary was born at Tirnova, Bulgaria, and both spent most of their days in Constantinople, until the death of their lamented parents. They have gifts of languages, etc., which give them a rare fitting for some place in the East, while they seem strangely out of their element in the United States. If no place should appear for them in connection with our Mission, could they not be suggested to the Methodist Board, under which their father, the late Prof. Long, first went to Bulgaria? Or could they find places in Dr. Barrington's institution, in Constantinople?

I have answered your question in detail, and for your information only.

Very truly yours,

Ellen M. Stone.

desires for her protege, even when they admitted the manifest injustice thereby caused to others. Within a year or two, however, they seem to have resolved to do so no more; and Miss Malthie is very much grieved, in consequence. If Mrs. Demchevski is about returning to Samokov, you will find it more difficult, Dr. Barton, I think, to persuade Miss Malthie to remain much longer in America, as she is determined to continue her in her position as teacher of music.

Just in this connection, allow me to inquire whether in your opinion Miss Mary Long and her sister would not be very helpful, somewhere in Bulgaria? Miss Mary, for her proficiency in music and the language, and Miss Rosa as the matron of a school? The music in Samokov would have suffered during the year past, had Miss Long been there. Miss Malthie herself fears it has suffered under Mrs. Malthie, her cousin, who happened to be in Lompoc, on a vacation, and went to Bulgaria, ~~\\\ \\\~~ only to oblige her. Rev. Robert Thomson knows the Misses Long well; his opinion concerning them would be of value. They love the East, where Mary was born at Tirnova, Bulgaria, and both spent most of their days, until the death of their lamented parents. They have gifts of languages, etc., which give them a rare fitness for some place in the East, while they seem strangely out of their element in the United States. If no place should appear for them in connection with our Mission, could they not be suggested to the Methodist Board, under which their father, the late Prof. Long, first went to Bulgaria?

I have answered your question in detail, and for your information only.

Very truly yours,

Chloe Vaus, June 10 1906.

Rec'd JUL 1 1905 130

157 Chestnut St.,
Chelsea, Mass.,
June 29, 1905.

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.,
Foreign Secretary Am. Board,

My dear Dr. Barton:—

Two recent notes from you await acknowledgment and answer. Please accept my thanks for your word concerning Miss Matthie's notification to you, that she feels very well, and quite able to return to

the school in Samokov, leaving this country the first of October.

I trust that you will soon be able to find the one, who will relieve her, in part at least, and do for that most promising school what it sorely needs to have done for it now, lest its time of opportunity to attain great influence in the Principality, be

last.

I thank you too for calling my attention to Minnie's Seaside Rest. It has already been my privilege to be in this charming place for rest, for two days, and to meet Mrs. Green in her own home, which is the next door. The house was filled with delightful people, — from the bed-ridden wife of a Maine pastor, who is the light of the Rest several weeks every summer, to missionaries from China and elsewhere, and

one of India's daughters, in her native costume. I would love to be there again — was there last week with Miss Akrabova, as guests of Dr. L. B. Bates, — during camp-meeting time. — but we will go next week, D. V. — to the C. E. Convention at Baltimore, and in several other directions later. I do not know what missionaries are in this vicinity, but should think that many of them and teachers also, would love to accept the offered privileges. —

Very truly yours, Ellen M. Stone.

Ellen M. Stone
REC'D AUG 18 1905
157 Chestnut St.,
Chelsea, Mass.,
Aug. 17, 1905.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D., Sec.
Sec'y. Am. Board;—

Dear Dr. Barton;—

Will you kindly give me the name and address of the oculist to whom you send people needing such an one's services; also of the optician to whom you refer?— In reading over

Do not send you Mr. Hyslop's letter because it is in Bulgarian.

the Minutes of the last An. Meeting of the European Turkey Mission, I noticed a discrepancy, which doubtless you also noticed. — A vote was taken favoring the making over to the Am. Board, of the property of the Albanian G.B.S. at Kortcha, but notwithstanding this action, later in the meeting, a vote was taken to ask for a missionary to engage in evangelistic work in Albania; and

in the event that the Board does not do this, urged the propriety of inviting some other society to take up the work among that people. In that case, the school should of course also be under that other society, should it not? The school is not an outgrowth or a dependency of the Monastir school. It was founded by the late Mr. George D. Kyrias, and has been carried on by his sister, and now by his two sisters, assisted by the advice of their brother, George D. Kyrias, and assistant teachers. This family have

made large sacrifices for the maintenance of this work, not only in obtaining and enlarging the original building, but in allowing the furniture, including the organ and library of their deceased brother to remain for the use of the school, as they have done ever since his death in January, 1894. It is about twenty years since that devoted son of Albania wrote me of his earnest hope that the Board would send a missionary to his people; or in the event of their not doing it, he proposed what our Mission now proposes, that they turn to some organization that can do it. There is every reason why our Board should lay this

neglected people upon its heart, and call for that first American missionary family to go to Albania, to build upon the foundations already laid by the Kyrias family and their assistants, - to whom God has given His blessing. It would be a lamentable thing for this promising work to be now passed over to others, for it ought to be closely a part of the work of the European Turkey Mission.

I enclose a plea which an Albanian preacher, formerly

of Kortcha, where I have met him more than once, — Rev. me some months since. I have one also from Mr. George D. Kyriás, making the same urgent plea, and from the young ladies teaching in Kortcha. — Can not Albania's cry be heard when it is so urgent, no missionary ever sent to them in modern times; and yet the people thus pleading, and for long years pleading! — In obedience with your request, I wrote your decision to Mr. & Mrs. Kennedy; but I am still heavy-hearted about them, when they were ready to go to the work which so pitifully calls for aid.

Yours truly, Ellen M. Stone.

Chelsea-Trust. June 29-1905.

Rec'd SEP 6 1905

Ellen M. Stone
157 Chestnut St.,
Chelsea, Mass.,

Ans'd SEP 6 1905

Sept. 5, 1905.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D., Foreign Secy. Am. Board, —

Dear Dr. Barton; —

In my desire not to intrude upon you ~~upon~~ your busy Tuesday morning, I fear my manner may have seemed to you Brusque. I am most grateful to you for your great kindness in loaning to me the papers upon the work to which my life is given. Hearing

lest they might be required during the busy days before you leave for the Board Meeting, I brought them back, — but dared make the request that when the bill comes, in the Rooms, because of the absence of so many, — I might be privileged again to take some of them, if you would kindly grant this permission through your stenographer.

May I also see "the Letter to the Rooms," and any other communications which would throw light upon

the consideration of the subject of the Mission's invitation to me to return, and to be located at Sophia? — You, Dr. Barlow, having been on the field know how to put yourself in the place of any of us missionaries, and will easily understand why I would like to understand as clearly as possible, all connected with the invitation of my co-workers, to return to work with them.

We who would have loved to go to Seattle with the delegation

from the East to the meeting, will not fail cease to keep it upon our hearts, and pray God, if it be His will, that the debt of which you spoke to me, but of which I have spoken to no one, — be wiped out in Seattle as completely as was that which was cancelled at Hartford, — four years ago, —

May the Spirit of God be with all who attend the sessions — "the spirit of power and of love and of a sound mind." —

Yours very truly,

Ellen M. Stone.

Rec'd DEC 12 1905

157 Chestnut St
Ans'd DEC 12 1905
Chelsea, Mass.,
Dec. 11, 1905.

Revd J. L. Barton, D.D.;
Dear Dr. Barton;

Somehow this envelope addressed to yourself has remained in my hands, and I use it to ask a line from you with reference to your knowledge of Shaban Bey's success or the reverse? Have you or Dr. Trueblood or any one else of whom you know, received the $25,000, which the Board would use as an Albanian Fund?

I saw in the Transcript a statement that the will

go to Washington. Do you think he can further his desires, by anything which our Government can do? — Even were some boys to be brought here for education from Albania, how much wiser an expenditure it would be of money, to establish schools for the many boys in Albania, rather than to bring a few at large expense for boys, to this country! —

Very truly yours,
Ellen M. Stone.

Miss Ellen M. Stone

Chelsea-Mass. Dec. 11-1905.

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Ellen W. Stone

Chelsea Mass. Feb. 18-1906.

American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

14 Beacon Street, Boston, 19

Dear Dr. Barton, —

I thank you for your inquiry received this morning, ~~but~~ and am surprised indeed that any one can have so misunderstood me as I feel sure your informant has done. I had but five minutes in which to speak, and did not overrun my time in the least. My topic was "C. E. Over Seas," and my thoughts were absorbed by it. No thought of newspapers or correspondents was in my mind then, or was before or after. Dr. Capen preceded me, and

was still on the platform when I spoke. He may possibly have noticed what I said. Miss Frances Dyer was just in front, and listened. I have made two attempts to find her this morning to ask her if I said anything about newspapers.

So far as I know, your informant is absolutely mistaken. My feelings are only a deep gratitude for all the newspaper men did for me and mine in connection with my captivity, freedom and return home. The only annoyance I have felt or expressed was with those who during the past year, tried to say what I am to do, before I knew myself.

Yours, with the assurance that I shall give the whole matter to get rid of, with your informant, through your kindness.

Rec'd FEB 20 1906

157 Chestnut St., Chelsea,

Feb. 19, 1906.

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D., Foreign Secretary Am. Board

Ans'd FEB 20 1906

Dear Dr. Barton;

An additional word about that grievance of which "a well-known newspaper man in Boston" wrote you concerning me. It suddenly flashed across my mind yesterday, that in referring to Treasurer Shaw's introduction of me as one who must stay in this country to stir up C.E.'s to greater activity in their

work for missions.— Turned aside from my subject to say that if permitted by God to return to work among O. E.'s over the seas, it would be in Bulgaria and not in Turkey." Here I have a suspicion that I may have added:— "whatever the newspapers say to the contrary."— If I said it, it was on the spur of the moment, and not premeditated. It referred only to the false reports which have annoyed all of us, who will give the facts to the public when

the time comes. Until yesterday I could recall no word or thought on which your correspondent could have thought into any accusation of mere his craft as "amplifiers of facts." Now I have an impression that I may have been betrayed into such a hasty but still true word of <u>some</u> newspapers, — as the above.

I trust you quoted to the gentleman the word in my note of Saturday, which refers to the inexpressible gratitude of myself and my friends, for the inestimable service which the press of

our com[illegible]ed of the world, rendered to help secure my freedom. I shall never forget it, nor cease to be grateful for it.

Thanking you for telling me, and regretting to have grieved any one however unwittingly, I remain,

dear Dr. Barton,

Very truly yours,

Ellen M. Stone

Ellen M. Stone
Chelsea - Mass.
Feb. 19-1906.

RECEIVED
FEB 24 1906
O. H. PATTON.

15 Chestnut St.
Chelsea, Mass.—
Feb. 23, 1906.

Dear Dr. Patton;—

I will do as you wish, and that I am not quite sure of your exact Intention. Do you especially need me there? If so, I'll make it. I shall be obliged to ask that the expenses for us two, my niece & myself,

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be met from Chattanooga and back to the same point, because there I interrupt my tour to the South, & must resume it there.

Yours faithfully
Sherlock Stone.

Address me
care Gen. S. H. Gruener,
Chamber of Commerce Bldg.,
Nashville, Tenn.

Rec'd MAY 4 1908

At Mr. Chapin's desk.

1.30 p.m. May 4, 1908

Ans'd MAY 7 1908

Dear Dr. Barton; –

In your absence, I am leaving this with this from the Nashville, Tenn., Banner, to ask if you think you will kindly return it to me after you have had it copied, and also that you will tell me – if these statements are correct; that is, whether this organization is before the Am. Bd., it has been, and if so, what has been accomplished? Also about the Sultan's "broken pledges." Secretary denies that he, the Sultan, has refused the assertion with reference to the Am. schools & institutions.

Do you know whether Minister

[illegible] is coming home as
[illegible] to advance. The letter-
[illegible] of [illegible] Price's contributions
with [illegible] of [illegible] Smith-
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]?
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] me
[illegible]

[illegible] is
[illegible], if they are out of
place. I reached home last
week after two months'
absence.

Nothing else and yours
are well. Sam

Always cordially yours,
Ellen M. Stone.

The young lady at the Information Desk says that the manuscript called her up, to inquire if I was returning to take charge of some female college. So there is none in Constantinople, that

Ellen M. Stone

Boston - May 4-1906.

question is easily answered. I
really, I wish no one would
write that old foundationless
rumor, The Transcript pri
it once.

E. M. Stone -

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Rec'd MAY 10 1906

Stamp forgotten before, when packed answer,

Ellen M. Stone

157 Chestnut St.,

Ans'd MAY 10 1906

Chelsea, Mass.,

May 9, 1906.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D. D.;-
Gen. Secretary A. B. C. F. M.;-

Dear Dr. Barton;-

I thank you for your note of the 7th, and for its enclosure, also for your suggestions that the new appearance of a rumor using my name, emanates from a western source, and

from the well-known pastor at Oak Park-Dam here, notwithstanding. and Mrs. Filka and her family are in Albania, doubtless, as they have been for six months past.

In all probability you have received copies of the enclosed circular, from Samokov, ere this, for the time

is short in which to make an appeal for the C. & J. D. I feel with the framers of this appeal, that we must not let down, but on the contrary must strengthen this one institution for the higher Christian education of Bulgarian young men, in the Balkan Peninsula, outside of Robert College. If you have all the copies you wish, I will

be glad to regard this one.
Is there anything I can do
about it more than I am
doing, to send to such persons
as I can think of, who may
help? — I thought that $2,500.
of the Rockefeller gift went to
the Sam. School, for its industri-
al dept., but this appeal looks
as if they were in straits there
also. Yours truly, Ellen M. Stone.

Rec'd JUN 26 1906

Ellen M. Stone
Hampton, Va.,

June 23, 1906.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D. D., Cor. Sec. of the Am. Board,

My dear Dr. Barton;-

Your letter of June 4 reached me too close to the time of my departure for the W. N. C. A. Conference at Biltmore, N. C., to permit me to answer it at once.

I thank you for giving to me the kind words of the official action of our

mission, relative to anything I may be able to do in its interest here, and the re-iteration of its invitation to return to work in connection with it.

You were the only one to write me this word, although friends in the mission have written me of their individual hopes relative to my return.

I was very glad that in your note relative to

the need of the Collegiate and Theological Institute in Samokov, you changed the pronoun "you" to "we", in hoping that "we" ~~you~~ "might be able to secure the entire sum needed so solely by the Institute.

Unless from some gift to the Board, you have been able to provide for the most of the $1,000, I fear the consequences to our Institute; for the Board deals with moneyed Christians, and receives legacies and gifts continually, while I may succeed only in one out of many appeals.

Bulgaria needs that our Christian institution for the training of young men, to be strengthened and developed; not to be discouraged, and that Publication Department too ought to be put on a pure basis, and the Zornitza not be continually threatened with discontinuance. There are plenty of publishers and money found for worthless and even immoral and infidel books, in Bulgaria, — but our Mission press, from which issues a pure stream, is so impoverished, as to be continually threatened with drought. May God help the Board to strengthen the work in Samokov for a few years more! —

Yours truly, Ellen M. Stone.

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Ellen M. Stone

157 Chestnut St.,
Chelsea,

Rec'd JUL 12 1906

Ans'd JUL 14 1906

July 12, 1906.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D.; - Foreign Secretary of the Am. Board; -

My dear Dr. Barton; -

In my desire not to encroach upon your time and strength, last monday, you looked so very weary, - I said not a word of that which is so much in my heart, these days, - of the sympathies of my release from captivity, remains unfaltering and as working,

Yours truly,
Ellen M. Stone

thy which I feel with you and with all of your associates in the Board's work, because of the death of Dr. Judson Smith. The burdens of additional loneliness because he comes no more, — as well as of work and of anxiety, [illegible] the financial outcome of the Board's year together with the protests and pleadings

of the men and women whom the churches have sent to the front as their representatives, make a burden surpassing human power to bear. There must be hard learning upon the promise: "My grace is sufficient." May it prove so to you, and may God make a way of escape for His workers in other lands, by yet opening the eyes, hearts, and hands of His stewards in this land, to whom He has

given abundance of wealth, to do the work at home and that abroad, if only they have love enough for Him, to joy in sharing with His needy ones in other lands! — To stop the Zornitza, to close the Collegiate & Theo. Institute in Samokov, Bulgaria, that would be ignominious retreat indeed! — The churches of Christ in the United States cannot permit that! —

Lest I did not do justice to Mrs. Howe's request, I enclose her letter to you.

Never forgetting Dr. Smith's tender sympathy in coming to my family, in your a[illegible] me, to tell

Rec'd JUL 19 1906

157 Chestnut St.,
Chelsea, Aug. 2, '06.

AUG 3 1906

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

arrangements, especially if it results in the loss [illegible] to the [illegible] that involved the [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] cellent, hard-working and wholly consecrated men and women in the Salonica, to under-stand the refusal of the

Committee.

May God grant you strength to bear the greatly increased burdens & care, which is now upon you, as it has been since illness called Dr. Smith from his post, — and raise up helpers for His work in the Euro- [illegible] this cause to the world! —

Sincerely,

Ellen G. White

Ellen M. Stone

Chelsea - Mass. July 19 - 1906.

Rec'd SEP 12 1906

Winona Lake, Ind.,
Sept. 10, 1906.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D., Foreign Secretary A.B.C.F.M.,
My dear Dr. Barton,

Your note of the 6th, with its enclosure addressed to Mr. Hosmer, dated the 4th, — reached me here, where I have been spending the last ten days at the Y.M.C.A. Conference.

Albania does not reach to the Baltic, of course that was a slip. I trust you may receive the money speedily, so that the Board

Adolphus Wise
at Colchester
Albania
to be sent to
Foreign Mission Board
Boston

may be able to build upon the foundations which have been so well laid by the Lord himself in co-operation with the British & For. B. Society and the A. B. M. U., with the Turks now co-operating and the Am. Board paying his salary.

I wish I could have the opportunity of seeing this "lady," if she would like to have me, because I have known the work in Albania from the time Mr. G. D. Kopias began it, and have been in Koritcha three times

as a Trustee of the school there. I think I could interest Dr. in Albania and its people.

Two weeks since, when I stopped in Jamestown, N.Y., to see as many as possible of the 165 Albanians who live there, — they gave nearly half of the contribution of $67, which was given at a crowded church service. That is the Albanian's spirit.

God help us to send workers to them!

Yours truly,

Ellen M. Stone

Ellen M. Stone

Winona Lake. Ind. Sept. 10-1906.

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Rec'd OCT 5 1906
Ans'd OCT 6 1906

137 Chestnut St.,
Chelsea, Mass.,
Oct. 4, 1906.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D.,
Cor. Sec'y. of the Am. Board;-

Dear Dr. Barton;-

May I trouble you to enclose a few lines in the enclosed addressed envelope, to tell me what you know of Rev. Stephen Trowbridge's route after

beyond Liverpool? I learned from Mr. Warren that he & his wife will sail by the Cedric, Oct. 19, from New York for Liverpool.

Do you know yet where the new teacher for the Constantinople College will go? Miss Starwood said that matters were not yet definite, but some one would go as early as possible.

& inquire with reference to Miss Ruth Horne who seeks traveling companions for a part of the way, at least, on her journey to Salonica. She would have been happy to go with Miss March, but does not wish to go by the Mediterranean, and to Constantinople, and then take the journey back thro' Turkey alone. Or to have a wait at Piræus alone. She is too young to meet such ex-

periences-

Hoping there is an encouraging response to your letter on behalf of the Albanians, also that, in answer to many prayers, you may see indications that the full amount of money needed for God's work, under the care of the Board, for next year, is coming in, I remain

Yours in expectation,

Ellen M. Stone-

Ellen M. Stone
Chelsea Mass.
Oct. 4-1906

Ellen M. Stone

Ans'd DEC 4 1906

Private and confidential.

7 Chestnut St.,
Chelsea, Dec. 1, '06 -

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D., Foreign Secretary of the American Board, -

My dear Dr. Barton, -

It was a surprise to me to see by the full statement in the Boston Advertiser, of Thanksgiving morning, which happened to fall under my eye the next day, - that you are to leave Boston for China

I am feeling in better nervous condition than at any previous time since my last illness.

Thanks, Yours truly, Ellen M. Stone.

in two weeks!

How much I would enjoy returning to my work in Bulgaria, after some months, — if that proves to be God's will for me, ~~after some months~~, — by that route! —

I want to talk with you in reply to your note of Nov. 28, if I may before ~~next~~ Tuesday noon, leaving for an absence in Connecticut, of some ten days. Let me just three facts in writing, however, — that you

may understand that I have not been an expensive missionary to the Board.

During all the years since I went out first, in 1878, I have never had a re-fit. When I came home in 1882, after my Father's death, my brothers paid my expenses. It cost the Board nothing, but the Home Secretary, Dr. Alden, and the Prudential Committee surprised me by detaining me at home thirteen

months, thus making it answer as my first vacation. After returning to Bulgaria, I was in the work for twelve years, without a vacation, save that by vote of the Mission, I brought home Miss Spooner, when ill health compelled her to leave the work; but went back after only a month for rest between the journeys. When I returned in Dec. '95, I stayed until July '98, and came again, as you know in April 1902.

The Board had no expense for my return to this country, as you yourself told me, nor had it a cent's expense on my account until March 4, 1905, when my mother having no further need of any human care, — I began to receive the home allowance for one on furlough — of $450. a year, which I still receive. You do not forget of course that in the meantime the Board profited by hundreds, — possibly more than $2,000, — from the funds given in excess of the amount paid for my ransom, which is certainly more than double what I

during my stay at home,—
shall have received, — if I return to
Bulgaria next April or May. My
name was not dropped from
your list of missionaries during
those first three years after my re-
turn, when I never had a cent
from the Board, — because no one
wanted it dropped. When people
asked me concerning my relation
to the Board, I answered them: "It
remains the same. Once a mission-
ary, always a missionary, in my case."
The circumstances of my return were ex-
traordinary. They had to be met by unusual
promises.

Ellen M. Stone

157 Chestnut St., Chelsea,
June 20, 1907.

Hon. S. B. Capen, LL.D.,
President of the American Board;—

My dear Mr. Capen;—

I was not sure whether you understood what was in my mind, when I asked you, at the reception to the new missionaries given by Mr. Wilder, as you were speaking of the good news from Constantinople, in Mr. Peet's letter,— if in your opinion the time were not now ready for ret-

thing other matters with the Porte.

Of course I had reference to a demand for satisfaction, and repayment of the ransom paid for my release from captivity.

Dr. Barton always told me that the matter was not pressed because of the two contentions with the Porte which our Government was already pressing, before I was released. Now that these are both settled, surely it must be time that attention were given to the outrage committed against me, as an American subject, and the matter pressed to a satisfactory conclusion.

I have the assurance of a British

Consul General, that Great Britain has made a formal demand in writing through her Ambassador in Constantinople, for repayment of the 15,000 Turkish Liras, which were paid for the ransom of young Abbott of Salonica, two or three months since.

May I quote to you your own words, Dr. Capen, spoken at the welcome which was given to me in Park St. Church, in April 1902? The Congregationalist reported them: "Brigandage must cease. American lives must no more be placed in jeopardy. The American merchant and the American missionary must be protected. Men must be safe every-

where, under the Stars and Stripes. We have President Roosevelt a man of God who is interested in these things, and who will never rest, we believe, until this wrong is righted. The thought is not to be tolerated for an instant that this captivity, ending in this release, is to be a closed incident. The ransom money must be returned, and the stealing of human lives must cease. This captivity in the providence of God, will work out a larger liberty."

Noble words! May they soon be proved to have been truly prophetic!

The date of my capture ante-dated that of young Abbott's by more than five years.

If I understood Dr. Barton rightly, he told me that our Government had twice filed a notification, or perhaps more properly, a memorandum, with the Porte, of my case, and that it should bring it up at such time as it saw fit. Could any time be more fitting than now when Great Britain as I know, and the Netherlands also, upon the authority of the Associated Press, have similar claims before the Porte, for re-payment

of ~~[illegible]~~ moneys paid for the ransom of two of their subjects, for our Government to press its older claim for satisfaction in a case which continued almost half a year, had an American woman as the captive, with a Macedonian woman as her companion, who while a captive became a mother, and a helpless baby's sufferings were added to those of the women captives for the last seven weeks before release? It is no wonder that the atten-

tion of the world was to so great a degree, turned to this case. The sympathy, prayers, and money, of a nation were drawn upon to secure my release.

Each other captive, Perdicaris, Abbott, and the Dutch baron, were prisoners a much less time than I was held, and were either wealthy and paid their own ransoms, themselves, or of wealthy families, who speedily ransomed them; whereas I was saved by the response of the nation to my family's appeal, when they had done what was possible to them.

There are additional reasons why my case

should be settled by our Government, with the Ottoman Government, and settled as speedily as possible.

The Secretaries of the Board, Perhaps the President also, I have been told, went to the Government, to advise upon the course to be pursued to secure my release. Doubtless a communication from them, relative to pushing the matter for a settlement with Turkey, would be helpful to the State Department, unless indeed such a communication has already been sent.

Again quoting to you your words which exactly express the sentiment of my heart:- "The thought is not to be tolerated for an incident that this captivity, ending in this release, is to be a closed incident,"- I remain in hope of speedy and full justice,

Yours most sincerely, Ellen M. Stone-

RECEIVED
C. H PATTON
AUG 10 1907

157 Chestnut St,
Chelsea, Aug. 9, 1907.

Rev. C. H. Patton, D.D.;-
Secretary American Board;-

Dear Dr. Patton;-

I enclose to you the personal note from Mr. Poli, that you may see how far the matter of the proposed action of the Board is known.

I fear it may have reached even the Turkish Government, and perhaps be the reason why the Kortcha school was forcibly

closed during the progress of examinations, and Mr. Teilka was fired because he tried to keep it open until they should be completed. Silence is the only safe course with reference to anything which it is hoped to do in secret. Accomplished facts speak for themselves, and cannot be prevented.

I hope that Mr. Clarke of Norwalk and others who are now to secure the removal of the Co will be successful.

Yours in co-working, Ellen M. C

KOMBI
ALBANIAN NEWSPAPER
SOTIR PETTSY
EDITOR & PROPRIETOR
100 HUDSON ST.

BOSTON, MASS, August, 8, 1907.

Dear Miss,

In answer to your letter of July 30 I have the honor to inform you that one boy and one guard have gone to Jamestown, while the other two remained in Worcester. Dr. Liasco is still here.

Mr. Soter Pettsy the editor of "Kombi" has received these days a letter addressed to the American Board by the Albanians of Naples. Not knowing the address of the Board, I include the letter and ask you to mail it to its destination.

I was out of Boston for more than one month, and that's the reason that I didn't answer to your first letter.

Yours truly
Jan Noli

June 30-1907 147

Most Honorable "American Mission Board"!

Greatest has been the joy we have felt in our hearts, reading on your Albanian review "Kombi" the joyful news that a Committee has been formed in your great Board in order to collect the necessary funds to send a mission to our beloved Albany, to fund there Albanian national schools.

The generous manner according which since long our brothers, compelled by the distressful economical and social conditions in which unhappily our beloved fatherland is coming to ask hospitality and work on the free American soil were welcomed and treated, gave us a sure pledge of your nobility and caused us to expect more powerful helps for our nation's awaking.

Our hope, has not remained vain, it has gone beyond our wishes. The sincere interesting that the generous American people has begun to take in our cause, makes us hope that better days will rise for us too. It is great our joy then, immense and lasting our unforgetfulness to this greatest Board ordering the assistance for our beloved fatherland.

These feelings, which are every true Albanian's feelings, we have to write to you in name of the Albanians of Italy and especially of all those amongst them residing at Naples vowing for the prosperity of the Great American people, whose influence has always been and everywhere a mark of light and freedom.

We have the honor to be

Yours respectfully

Prof. G. Schiro', Lek Gruda

N. Liraku, S. N. Kondilar.

Dok Sula

Naples, June 30/1907.

Piazzeta Olivella, 1.

Fort te ndéreshmés "American Mission Board"!

Nuk munt te rreféhét mé goje gexini ce u-nghaall ne xêmberat t'ona Kuur muarem vésh nga flétória shqypé «Kombi» lajmin é ngushllúashem ce nde ghii te Shoceriis s'uaje te ndéreshmé u-ngréh gnê Pjése mé cellim ce te mblédhe te hollat é névojeshmé per mé dergúamun gnê misiòn nde Shqyperii t'one te dáshune è per te hapur shkolla Kombetaré shqypé.

Mengra é mire mé te tsilen u-priten è kjéne mbájtune ch'ne Kohe te pare vllèxerit t'ane ce (te shtrengúare nga te meshireshmét ghêndejé ékonomikë è shoceroré nên te tsilat vuan atdhéu i gne i mjéer) vine mé cinda è cinda te kerkojen mbájtesii è pune ne tokë te lire t'Amérikes, ishté per née gnê fêng i shendosh ce mâ 'ndéj do te munt te shpresonim ndihma mâ te vlèreshmé per sqhimin é Kombesiis s'one.

È priteja é jone, jo vétem nuk na vajti mbe Kot, por i Kaloi deshirat t'ona: 'ndéréshti i mzéht ce shpyrt-madhi popull i Amérikes Kaa nisun te marre per châshte jén t'one, na jép bésen sé per se shpéjti do te vine dite te mira édhé per née. I math praa âsht gexini i gne, è pa-mase è é pa-vdèkune âsht mregnóhteja é jone per Shoceriin é ndéreshme, ce u-vîu nde Kryé te levixejés ce Kaa per cellim t'i ndihmoje atdhéut t'gne.

Kéto ndjegna, ce jane ndjégnat é te ghithë atdhétarevét te vertéte, kémi na sot ndéren t'Ju a chfacesojem nga ana é Shqypetarevét t'Italiis è te te tbúarevét nga Shqyperia, ce ndollen nde Napull, duké u-lutun per fatbardhesiin é Kombit amerikàn, influénsa é te tsilit Kaa sjéllun kurdohére drite è liri.

Mbètémi mé ndére

Bindetoret t'uaje

Nde Napull me 30 te Térshoit 1907

Prof. G. Schiro, Lék Gruda
N. Linaku, S. N. Kondilar.
Dok Pula

REC'D AUG 15 1907

Rev. C. F. Bell,
Assistant Secretary,
Asia Bldg.

My dear Mr. Bell;—

I think that Mr. Brailsford's Macedonia, its Races and their Future, is a reliable book, in the main. I have seen it, and read in it about our Kortcha school, which I do not find referred to by Miss Edith M. Durham, in her new

little charge means life and hope to two million people in my captivity which so long detained me in this country. — Press hard when I thought of Albania, where I present to plead the summer of 1902, — and could have been under the shadow of many heresies and persecutions. Perhaps I may be able to see Mr. Brailsford, and get his book, and see if there, I can find anything for our Kortcha school.

Yours truly,
Ellen M. Stone.

book The Burden of the Balkans.
although I know that she was
entertained by Miss Kyrias
at the school, and had Mr.
George Kyrias as her guide and
adviser, at one time. Her book
was published in 1905. by
Edw. Arnold, 41-43 Maddox St.
London, and Mr. Brailsford's
by Methuen & Co: 36 Essex St. W.C.,
London-

Frederick Moores The Trail of the
Balkans, is published by the Macmil-
lan Co., New York.

European Turkey is a wonderfully

interesting and most needy field. God grant that the Kennedy's go very soon to Albania! Then another family is needed to re-enforce them, and a third for our great work centering in Salonica. This third man is imperatively needed there, but he may be a man who dare not, or for other reasons could not go to Albania, but would go to a city with direct rail and steamboat communication with the outside world, and a considerable foreign population. Mrs. Kennedy is a missionary daughter, knows all about the dangers, yet longs to go right into Turkey, &

Miss Ellen M. Stone Aug. 4. 1900
Albania-Mass.
1797

Mr. Kennedy is as ready as she. He knows & loves the Kenyon family, and he and her husband are their choice as the first missionary family for Albania. Their call is a clear one. May the means to send them come speedily, or the Prudential Com. rescind its unjust discrimination against Albania. It is simply more adequately manning a station of the European Turkey Mission, & transferring its accounts from Mr. Clark's books in Monastir, Macedonia, to Mr. Kennedy in Koritsa. Mr. Tsilka has been paid by the Board since 1900, in Koritsa, & the school expenses, by the W.B.M.I., since a much earlier date. But this

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Rec'd AUG 1 1907 Ellen M. Stone

Rec'd AUG 20 1907

107 Chestnut St.,
Chelsea, Mass.,

Aug. 17, 1907

Rev. E. F. Bell, —
Asst. Sec'y. Am. Board, —

Dear Mr. Bell, —

I am sending you some facts concerning the Bulgarians, which I translated from Pastor Popoff's letter in the last number of the Zornitsa. When you know the Bulgarians and the Albanians adequately, you will feel great admiration for them, and an intense desire that they be given all Christian privileges, to help them realize their aspirations for manhood and womanhood.

Over

Yesterday I received a card from Miss Clarke of Sofia saying that she and three Bulgarian girls were to sea Aug. 15, on the Deutschland

I returned on ~~that~~ steamer in six days & five hours, from Southampton, Eng., so Miss Clarke will be due on the 21st or 22nd, - at New York

Yours truly,

Ellen M. Stone

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Chestnut St.,
Chelsea, Mass.,
Sept. 5, 1907.

Rev. E. F. Bell,
Assistant Sec'y. Am. Board,—

Dear Mr. Bell,—

Let me thank you for favoring me with a copy of your important letter to our Mission, Aug. 30. You made your points clearly concerning the Kennedy's and Albania, and Dr. Horne's will it be necessary before they can at all make good the loss of Dr. Thurston's from the general work, who have been with great power for 35 years.

Yours truly
Ellen M. Stone.

Rec'd SEP 1907
SEP 6 1907

relation to the Thessalonica R. & S. S., and to the mission; but yet I fear that Dr. Crane and Mr. Haskell and their families will feel a good deal disappointed because you write of only one new man for Salonica Station. You know that when both these brethren were giving all their time to the station, they had also a business man, a Swiss, Mr. Haskell's brother-in-law,

Ellen M. Stone
Colchester, Mass.
Feb. 5-1901

who gave them most valuable assistance, and had so well mastered the Bulgarian language as to begin to preach in it, although he was a layman - They were very anxious to retain him, to do the great amount of clerical work which devolves upon Salonica Station, and leave the missionaries free for their own more distinctive work in the city and our large field. Salonica is the port of entry for all goods for monastic

and Albania as well as for Salonica Vilayet. Therefore in seeking for one family, that will not even keep the number of the Station full, with Dr. & Mrs. Hence out of it, because there is no new man for Mr. Frolich's place. He was objected to by the Prud. Com. on the ground that he could not take a missionary's place, yet took part of the money which should go toward a missionary's salary. Hence, two men are needed for Salonica, and as I under-stand it, are pledged to it. How many years

Rec'd SEP 9 1907.

Ellen M. Stone
157 Chestnut St.,
Chelsea, Mass.,

Sept. 7, 1907-

Rev. E. F. Bell,
Assistant Secretary A.B.C.F.M.,

Dear Mr. Bell;-

My note was only "by way of remembrance", to call to mind that pressing need in Salonica.

I wish I knew if Treasurer Higgins carries a heart full of rejoicing. Perhaps the

books are not balanced yet, but I hope and pray that the balance may be on the right side.

Our Mission is so constituted, you know that a young man can be trained either in Macedonia or Bulgaria, for work in either section. No year anywhere else could receive such

consecrating power upon it, and in
sight into real missionary work,
as the introductory year spent in
Salonica, in association with the
missionaries & the work there. Is
that because the spirit of Paul
still abides there? I know not.
I lived in all the stations of our
mission, Samokov, Philippopolis,
and Salonica, — all save Monastir, —
and this is my heartfelt opinion.
I love all with whom I worked, —

missionaries and natives, - but the spirit is different in poor, suffering Turkey -

"Blessed are the ones of adversity!"

still.

I do hope that the funds are all right, and that the men will come. A man in Salonica may go to Monastir sometimes. Train connection. 10 hours journey -

Yours in co-working!

Ellen M. Stone.

152

C'd SEP 14 1907

Ans'd SEP 17 1907

157 Chestnut St.,
Chelsea, Sept. 13, '07.

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.;-
Cor. Secretary American Board;-

Dear Dr. Barton;-

Having seen in last evening's Transcript an account of your journeyings and safe return, having circled the globe, - I send you my heartfelt congratulations upon the completion of your great undertaking,

accomplished so successfully.

Until I read your route as outlined in the account which fell under my eye, I had hoped that you might have passed through Constantinople, and have learned from personal conference with Mr. Peet and others of the Board's representatives there, how deep and widespread is the dissatisfaction which is felt by them with the course of Ambassador Leishman. If

only we could be sure that as sympathetic and wise a man as President Angell or Hon. John W. Foster would be chosen to succeed him, — it would seem that Ambassador Leishman might soon retire, with laurels enough, as the first Ambassador of the United States to the Sublime Porte, and the one who secured the granting of the principle of rights and concessions to American institutions in Turkey. You better

than I, will know from the correspondence awaiting you, - if it be true, as I have heard, that he manifests reluctance to pressing the application of the conceded principle, to specific instances of oppression and of wrong. I have recently learned from him, - in a letter to me which he marked "Private & Confidential", - that he returned an unfavorable report upon my case to the Government at Washington, deeming it "impolitic and inexpedient" even to bring it up with the Porte. I have replied that I must maintain my claim for justice and right treatment for myself and for those who ransomed me, and expect my Government to make such a claim for the repayment of my

ransom, as Great Britain is now making through Ambassador O' Connor of Constantinople, for the repayment of the ransom paid last spring to save young Robert Abbott of Salonica. I know him and his family slightly. This young man was a prisoner about a month, and was freed for $75.000. I was a prisoner almost six months, and ransomed for about ten thousand dollars less than that amount. I have taken the opinion of an eminent British authority.

the ransom will know from the correspondence

who assures me that Britain, in claiming indemnity for the capture of Mr. Abbott, is only "following the regular practice in requiring that the Turkish Government should pay the ransom extorted by the brigands who seized Mr. Abbott." It would seem to be the most favorable time for America to settle its far older claim, - since it has not been settled earlier, - when Great Britain is securing jus-

tice for her subject, who suffered from a similar, but less heinous, outrage, to that which I suffered.

When I wrote to President Capen about this matter, last July, I think, he advised that it be left to your return. I am sorry that you could not have visited Constantinople.

Hoping that Mrs. Barton enjoyed her trip to Europe, and praying for you all needed grace, wisdom, & love, for your heavy responsi

tributes, & remain

Very truly yours,
Ellen M. Stone.

Ellen M. Stone

Chelsea Mass.

Sept. 13-1907

SEP 21 1907

Personal Reply

153

157 Chestnut St.,

Chelsea, Mass.,

Sept 20, 1907.

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D., Cor. Secretary of the American Board;

My dear Dr. Barton; -

I thank you for your letter of the 18th, and still regret very much that you could not have gone to Constantinople, upon your return journey, to have understood matters on the spot. Since you could not go, God must have some better way for the solution of difficulties attending the settlement of American questions, and the representation of the rights of American subjects, before the Porte.

President Angell bids me not to accept the fact of Mr. Leishman's unwillingness to push my case, "as conclusive proof that Mr. Root would accept his views. The Department often has its own views." I too have begun to hope with you that there may be "a change in our representative" at Constantinople, and that Mr. Leishman may prefer to retire upon the laurels he has won; - but I hardly dared breathe it to anyone. Would the Board have influence in the selection of his successor? If only we could have a determined, fair-minded, and fearless man such as Ambassador O'Connor is for Great Britain! By the way, I read that it was Ambassador O'Connor's refusal to sign the agreement for the increase of customs in Macedonia, unless the consent of the United States should be obtained also, - which gave our Ambassador the chance which he improved, to refuse to sign that agreement, until Turkey had conceded the principle of rights and concessions for American institutions, for which he had so long unsuccessfully contended. This, as I understand the matter, was the secret of Ambassador Leishman's final success in gaining the concession of the principle, - the great-hearted action of the British diplomat.

As to speaking out plainly concerning missionary work in Moslem countries, I confess that my sympathies were with Dr. Zwemer when at Nashville he claimed, as we were talking together, that we had been wrong in not being outspoken in proclaiming that we were thus working. My conviction approved your words also at North Adams, and did not approve Prof. Anderson's words to me, when a few months later, he regretted such frankness of speech as ill-timed, and likely to hinder misionary work. I have, however, come around to his "side of the shield," at least so far as Constantinople and the two remaining provinces of Europe are conceived, - Albania and Macedonia. Mr. W.T.Stead helped me to see the reason for a discreet silence before the Turkish Government, that the Lord's work be not hindered. I called upon him and Mrs. Stead at Mr. Gulesian's, when they were in Boston, in the spring. Not a word was said about distinctively religious work. We were talking of the political problems before the non-Moslem subject races in Turkey. He said that he was forced to tell his Armenian friends that there is no hope for their cause at present, because they are not in a position to alarm the chancelleries of Europe; but Macedonia and Albania are in just this position.

Then I read an article in the World's Work for August, upon "The Danger Spot of Europe," which made me feel even more strongly than before the need of great caution in speech concerning our work in these lands, if we would not give occasion for great hindrances to that work. So I feel with Mr. Peet and others in Constantinople, that in the present watchful, suspicious attitude of the Turkish Government, alarmed lest it shall lose, as it must, at no very distant day, those two provinces in Europe remaining to it, - it will be far wiser to let Mr. and

Mrs. Kennedy go, as they are quite ready to do, - commissioned to the European Turkey Mission, and by that body to be designated to their future station, after they reach Salonica. (The Congregationalist has just come, and I see that they are so reported in it). The attempt to re-open the Kortcha school will have drawn the attention of the Turkish Government anew to the work under American auspices. Miss Kyrias wrote me that according to Turkish law, the authorities have no right to close a school which has continued five or six years; yet they closed hers which was established seventeen or more years ago! They also fined Mr. Tsilka £T6 for deferring the closing until the examinations should be finished! They had no public exercises, to the great disappointment of the pupils, who were forced to be content with Miss Kyrias' assurance that it was "for the best" that it should be so this year, and scattered to their homes ignorant of the fact that their school was officially closed. The closing is understood to be on account of the use of the Albanian language in it. The Greeks and Greekophiles would have gloried had they known of the Government's action; hence the stringent silence. I most earnestly hope that nothing will transpire to prevent Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy from arriving at the earliest possible day at Kortcha, securing a house, and becoming established there. They will meet enough to oppose them without finding the doors of Albania closed against their entrance, ~~into Albania,~~ by any proclamation that we propose to organize work there. They should go quietly. You know how Rev. George Knapp went back to his work after his experiences in Constantinople. He would never have gotten there, had not all parties maintained silence as to his going and arriving. This is the way I look at the sending of the first American workers to Albania. Mrs. Kennedy finds her experiences

in Turkey, whem she visited her parents in Monastir for a year before her marriage, of great advantage to her now. She well understands the advantage of silence in reference to their plans for the future.

I am most happy over the gaining of the Albanian Fund, and worked for it with Dr. Patton. It is the advancement, not the culmination yet,-of the prayers which have moved me to endeavors, from 1882 till this time, - that the American Board should send American workers to Albania, to enter into the work of that dauntless Kyrias family which inaugurated the work, and stillis the soul of it, in largest measure. Mrs. Kennedy has long known and loved them. Mr. Kennedy too knows Miss Kyrias, as she spent a couple of weeks with them, shortly before her return home in May, 1905. I hope the second family will soon be found and sent out, for Mr. Tsilka's class of boys ought to develop very speedily into an American school for boys. You have always said, Dr. Barton, that we need to occupy Albania strongly from the start. I agree with you, and hoped that Mr. Kennedy might suggest the name of some minister who with his family might follow them by next spring, to be their colleagues. Fortunately you have not to wait for money to send the second man to Albania.

God grant that the right man to represent American interests, may soon fill the place of ambassador at Constantinople!

Excuse my long letter, and believe me

Yours very truly,

Ellen M. Stone

Ellen M. Stone

Echeleq-Bulg.

Sept. 20-1904.

16

57 Chestnut St.,
Chelsea, Mass.,
Oct. 2, 1907.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D. D.,-
Cor. Sec. of the Am. Board;-

Dear Dr. Barton;-

Of course you will think of everything which can be done in the interests of the Lord's work in Turkey. But I will venture to express what has come to my minds and ask your opinion concerning

it.

Would a resolution or a memorial passed by the Board or by the entire Council, memorializing our Government of the unsatisfactory progress of its diplomacy at the Porte, and asking for a more vigorous policy on the maintenance of American interests there, — be a wise and practicable measure? It is such a unique opportunity for con-

solidated action, that you will be sure to gain as much as is wise from it.

You understood me, I think, Dr. Barton, that I do not wish to sever my connection with the Board, but because my case is so wholly unique in its history, — I ask your patience a little longer. My terrible misfortune, for myself and my family, has certainly not been without its "fruits" for the Board and for our Lord's cause in some hearts. There I find some comfort.

Very truly yours, Ellen M. Stone.

Ellen M. Stone

Chelsea - Mass. Oct. 9 - 1907.

DEC 16 1907

Ellen N. Stone
157 Chestnut St.,
Chelsea,

153

Dec. 14, 1907.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D.;-
Cor. Sec. Am. Board,
14 Beacon St., Boston;-

Dear Dr. Barton;-

I thank you for the opportunity to read the enclosed papers. It was desirable that I should see both sides, inasmuch as Dr. M. requested that I read his letters, and also sent me another long one, with

strictures upon Miss Has-
kell especially, and com-
mendation of her parents.
I was in the Phil. Sta.
with Dr. & Mrs. March for six
years and more, and there-
fore know some things
very well. Some day, we
make speak of them.
These letters show how little
can be understood of mis-
sionary work, except what
is apparent upon the out-
side, from such visits of
Secretaries even, such as

the three which our mission has enjoyed this year, Rev. J. N. Pletcaff became much more conversant with our work, by remaining long enough to visit each station & to attend Annual Meeting, last July. — I share with those who lament the departure of Pastor Setchanoff to the Methodist Mission. He was one of our first two or three able Bulgarian pastors, — warm-hearted and spiritual. — I sup-

pose you know that Ambassador Leishman is in Washington.

Once more thanking you for this favor of loaning me these letters, I remain

Yours sincerely,
Ellen M. Stone.

Ellen M. Stone.

Chelsea, Dec. 17, 190

Chestnut St.,

Rev. L. Barton, D.D.,
Corresponding Secy. Am. Board

Dear Dr. Barton;-

Perhaps you know that Ambassador Leishman was compelled by the death of his son-in-law in Paris to leave America earlier than he had planned to leave. A note from him reached me yesterday, in response to a word of sympathy from me

Dear Mr. Stone;
Rev. L. Barton wrote a letter to Mr. Stone, enclosing a check for $5 for his expenses, & never heard that he had received it; consequently concluded that he had gone, without cashing it; now the author of the plot, Dr. Barton, has discovered that he was not in Paris, & have read since writing the above, the author of the plot, Dr. Barton, has discovered that he was not in Paris, & have read since writing the above, and know only what I know.

Dr. Barton is evidently an absolutely unsophisticated man.

I certainly did not say, or hint a past interviewer makes, that I thought of night have given rise to such a report. I have in my notes of time. I said nothing of the Elder M.

report of the sorrow which had come upon him. He expressed regret that his "hope of seeing you while I was in America", was disappointed by this sorrow, which cut short his stay in America, and reminds me that the suffering to which I was then subjected caused him to hasten back to his post just six years ago. I fear that his sudden going may have prevented him from making some

statements which had promised to make to Senator Lodge, as the latter writes me, which might have let us under stand now, the reason for his antagonistic attitude towards my case. His words to me personally are soft and kind, but I feel that he has prejudiced the case, with the State Department, even more fully by his spoken than by his previously written words. This does not move me from my conviction that he is wrong, and that Ambassador Bryce's Counsel

Dickinson, Mr. Peet, and largely public opinion in general as it has been expressed to me, — with Senator Lodge's own position, before he had seen Ambassador Leishman now, — and my own absolute conviction of my rights & the rights of those who sacrificed, to save me, — are on the side of justice. I shall await most eagerly the statements which Senator Lodge writes me were not stated in Mr Leishman's despatches to the State Department, but to him and to

the State Department "personally."
I hope that his sudden leaving
the country, has not prevented
Mr. Leishman from putting
his statements in such a form
that those upon whom they
are said to reflect very serious-
ly, may have the opportunity
in simple justice to answer
for themselves as to that of
which they are thus secretly,
after so many years, accused.

Yesterday I had a letter
from Mrs. Kennedy, written

at Constantinople, telling me that they had been prospered in getting their bopes through the Custom-House, until the book-bodes had been reached; - and they were hoping the bopes could be sent right on, and they be able to follow without too much delay. It is sad indeed that the plans for Mr. & Mrs. Kennedy's going, were discovered by the tampering with the mail, in which the Turkish Government pretifies

itself. I felt so strongly the need of care that I have written to no one beyond Salonica, to which place the British Post serves us, a word concerning the Kennedy's or their appointment to our Mission. These limitations must be removed sometime, for God has promised "to deliver the needy when he crieth, the poor also, and him that hath no helper."

This morning's mail mail has brought me a copy of "The National," which I am

Please return it. I enclose stamp.

forwarding to you. I wish I could read what is written concerning me in the Greek, but can understand only by what I have written in the Congregationalist, concerning the Albanians. All such attacks are the kicking "against the pricks", but they are deplorable as they do hinder weak ones, who do not know their falsity. The author of the which paragraphs forgets or does not know that the Greek Ch. of Patriarchate is a schism from the Romans, in order to have its seat

at Constantinople. He fails to know too that our Christian missionaries invite all thinking persons to read and judge for themselves, and that in our mission at least, full credit is given to the fact that the National Church is Christian, in so far as it reveals to its adherents, in a language in which they can understand it, the message of God's call, & of how the soul of man may & must respond with faithful

Corr't service, if he would be blessed. Such an out-pouring of bitterness by Greeks in Boston must help us to understand the deadly bitterness of the struggle now being waged in Kostcha, and against what Miss Koprcias, Mr. & Mrs. Tsilka, and their co-workers are standing.

While looking over some papers last evening, I came upon clipping of a few years ago, detailing an account of the death of Saraffoff at that time! It is quite possible that he is no more dead now than he was

Rec'd JAN 17 1908

No

157 Chestnut St.,
Chelsea, Mass.,
Jan. 16, 1908.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D.,
Cor. Secretary of the Am. Board;-

My dear Dr. Barton;-

I am sorry to add anything to your heavy work, when you so kindly granted me an interview yesterday; but upon thinking the matter over, I must ask you to send me in writing the action of the Prudential Committee, in response to my request of them, through you.

I confess that I do not now see just what I can do, but the feeling grows stronger upon me that the end of my case has not been reached yet, because justice has not been done. I do not believe

that God who so signally delivered the captives out of their captivity in Macedonia, — when we could see no reason to hope for deliverance outside of Him, — will allow the matter to remain as it is. I must believe that He will open the way and show me what to do, or others if He will use others.

Yours, grateful for all you have done to aid in the settlement of the matter, most truly,

Ellen M. Stone.

Miss Ellen M. Stone

Chelsea - Mass. Jan. 16 - 1908.

Rec'd JAN 21 1908

157 Chestnut St.,

Chelsea, Mass.,

Jan. 20, 1908.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D., -

Secretary of the American Board; -

Dear Dr. Barton; -

At last I understand how it is that you know nothing about the despatch from the State Department, to which I have more than once made reference in communications to you. After the Board had decided that it could do nothing in its corporate capacity, toward a ransom for me, the late Secretary Smith sent the despatch to my brother, Mr. C. A. Stone, who initiated the movement for the ransom, - saying that it belonged to him, and not to the Board.

Thus I now see that there was no reason in fact why I should ask the Board to co-operate with me in a memorial to the State Department, and that the Prudential Committee was quite right in refusing its co-operation to a measure conerning a matter in which they had had no part as a body.

Therefore, if you have not already written me the letter embodying their answer to my request, which you had already given me orally, - do not take the trouble to do so. I was misled by the fact that the message was addressed to the late Dr. Judson Smith, and also by the fact that I am still learning of events which took place during the nearly half year that I was practically out of the world of men, during my captivity.

Regretting adding any burden to your mind or time, I remain

Yours very truly,

Ellen M. Stone

Office No.
Stone
Chicago Ill.

Jan. 20-1908.

JAN 24 1908

Ellen M. Stone

159

157 Chestnut St.,
Chelsea,
Jan. 23, 1908.

Dear Dr. Barton; —

I thank you for your letter of the 20th, and beg to hand you the enclosed note of inquiry concerning Mrs. Anna V. Mumford, formerly of Cambridge. She was my immediate predecessor in the Girls' School there, and

had been dropped from the mission, and returned independently to take up work in Philippopolis a short time before I went out in 1878. An assistant for her, Miss Doolittle, went out in our party.

So far as I am informed, she was responsible to no organization subsequently, though she received funds from Great Britain and America, and built up quite an estab-

lish-ment in the city, including two large buildings upon a conspicuous site. These she rented to the city when she closed her school of languages. Dr. Marsh would doubtless know if they still remain her property.

I have no knowledge of the reasons why Mrs. Appleget is inquiring concerning Mrs. Mumford, but I sincerely hope that no organization will take her up, and help her to return to Bulgaria,

for her work there was divisive and confusing. As I said, Dr. Marsh knew all about it. I knew it for seventeen years, until I left Philippopolis, in 1895.

I am referring Mr. Applegate's question to the "official bureau", as he requests, in enclosing his note to you.

Yours very truly,

Ellen M. Stone.

Rec'd JAN 24 1908

Answered that I preferred it to the Am. Board.

Miss E. M. Stone,

I certainly thank you for making it possible to locate Mrs. Anna V. Mumford, but I hardly felt free to be too inquisitive concerning her missionary career, & must trust to your to refer my request to the official bureau for the particular period of years she served, where in that time, & with what ability, & devotion & results, if I may have your further courtesy & forbearance.

Sincerely yours,
Rev. S. G. Appleget.

Parsons,
West Va.,
21-1-'08.

for her work there was divine and confusing. As I said, Dr. Nichols knows all about it. I knew it for seventeen years,

Rev. S. G. Applegate

Parsons. W. Va. Jan. 21-1908

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Rec'd APR 21 1908

Present address.
24 Clary Ave., Chelsea,
April 20, 1908.

Dr. James L. Barton,
Sec'y of the American Board;-

My dear Dr. Barton,

Had I not been unexpectedly laid aside for a few days of complete rest, your very kind note of the sixteenth should have received my earlier and personal acknowledgement.

I am most thankful to say that my brother's home was beyond the fire limit, and it is open to me.

I wish that your hope that my material losses were well covered by insurance, was founded on fact; there was none however.

We, too, were much concerned for Miss Warden's safety and have not yet learned her present address, although we were early relieved to learn of her safety.

Thanking you, Dr. Baston, for this expression of your personal interest, and asking grateful remembrance to all of your co-workers at your next noon prayer gathering, I remain,

Yours most sincerely,
Ellen M. Stone.
E. B. S.

Ellen W. Stone

Chelsea Mass. Apr. 20-1908.

Telegrams, Cables,
Clippings, Correspondence, etc.,
on Case of Miss Stone

Sept 3-1901

Details of the carrying off of Miss Stone & Mrs. Tsilka by brigands Sept 3. 1901.

A friend in Razlog, near where the sad affair took place, writes as follows: "I have just received your telegram and have come to Bansko to send you a man. What to say we do not know. On Tuesday, Sept 3, we sent them off prosperously. Mr. S. Koudeff & I even accompanied them some distance above Mehomia to "The Springs". On Wednesday, the 4th., a boy came from Mehomia with the sad news that he had seen Mrs. K. Usheva and the others before the Gov't-house in Mehomia, and that Miss Stone and Mrs Tsilka had been carried off by brigands. I was dumbfounded by this strange news and even tho't that the boy was joking, and asked him at time whether it was true. I immediately set out for Mehomia (Razlog). On the way between Bansko and Mehomia I met the girls (teachers) all without and stringing along one by one. Sad picture! and sadder still was Miss Stone not with them — she who had been ever with them.

The affair came about in this way: When they had reached a place 1½ or 2 hrs beyond the "Predale" (heights) where there is a Turkish guard, near by the place called "the supported Rock", a little above, men came out and surrounded them. Mr. Tsilka said that as he looked forward they looked like Albanians. But when he looked backward he saw Turkish soldiers [i.e. men who looked like Turkish soldiers]. After this the men collected them and drove them off up the mountain (Perin Vit.) for a distance of a half hour or more. There they searched them and from some took money and from other their watches. When they were robbing the girls (teachers) some said "Leave them alone ~~when they were robbing the~~, and don't touch them". After this they separated Miss Stone from the rest and led her to one side. After a little they called Mrs. Tsilka, and from that time these two disappeared. After this they took 2 of the horses from the Kiradjees and at about 5½ or 6 P.M. they carried them off somewhere, God only knows where. They kept the others all night under guard and did not even allow them to have blankets to cover themselves. At the dawn the guard disappeared and left them to go where they wished..... They came back to the "Predale" the guard asked them why they returned and they related what had happened. From there the Turkish guard led them to Mehomia

to report to the Govt. They examined them there, and sent them on to Bansko. The govt sent out soldiers with the avowed object of finding the brigands. The men who carried them off were clothed in various costumes. Some wore the uniform of Turkish soldiers, others the Albanian costume, and others still had clothed themselves with great cloaks. Who knows of what nationality they were?...

An other thing, their guns were of the new system. Some say they were like those which the Turkish army carry. What is the object of this carrying off we do not know. The work was evidently with some object; but what? We have as yet no word from anywhere that they have been seen, or that they have sent any word, or that they want anything. We suppose that they will write what else?

I am sorry that they have carried them off with only clothes they have ... Nothing else have they taken. And these two are weak. But may God give them special grace and strength for their support!"

He adds one other item that as far as observed they spoke only Turkish.

As many friends are asking how it all happened, I have translated the above from Bulgarian and give it to our friends.

May God give speedy release to our beloved fellow-workers!

J. Henry House.

Salonica, Sept: 10, 1901

Details of Carrying off Miss Stone and Mrs Tsilka
Sept 3, 1901

For Mr Charles Stone.

There was at least one heavy cloak belonging to the men who owned the horses that was taken with them, There was no attempt made to see anyone. They took what was given for the asking. Every one seems to think that they will be treated respectfully.

163

FORM No. 3.

CABLE MESSAGE.

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

INCORPORATED

All **CABLE MESSAGES** received for transmission must be written on the Message Blanks provided by this Company for that purpose, under and subject to the conditions printed thereon, and on the back hereof, which conditions have been agreed to by the sender of the following message.

THOS. T. ECKERT, President and General Manager.

TWO AMERICAN CABLES FROM NEW YORK TO GREAT BRITAIN.
CONNECTS ALSO WITH FIVE ANGLO-AMERICAN AND ONE DIRECT U. S. ATLANTIC CABLES.
DIRECT CABLE COMMUNICATION WITH GERMANY AND FRANCE.
CABLE CONNECTION WITH CUBA, WEST INDIES, MEXICO AND CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA.
MESSAGES SENT TO, AND RECEIVED FROM, ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD.

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GLASGOW: No. 29 Gordon St. and No. 4 Waterloo St.
BRISTOL: Backhall Chambers.

NUMBER	SENT BY	REC'D BY	No. OF WORDS.	FROM
16 B	Sm	Aly	12	Salonique 5

RECEIVED at 7.50 Sept 5 1901

Fernstock Boston

Brigands took stone and companion between Banski and Djoumaia Ajouman Souse

Deliver to C. H. Daniels 15 Church St "Newton"

TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

To guard against mistakes on the lines of this Company, the sender of every message should order it repeated; that is, telegraphed back from the terminus of said lines to the Originating Office. For such repeating, the sender will be charged in addition, one-half the usual tolls of this Company on that portion of its lines over which such message passes.

This Company will not assume any responsibility in respect to any Message beyond the terminus of its own lines; and it is agreed between the sender of the following Message and this Company, that said Company shall not be liable for mistakes or delays in transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery to the next connecting Telegraph Company, of any unrepeated message, beyond the amount of that portion of the charge which may or shall accrue to this Company out of the amount received from the sender for this, and the other companies, by whose lines such message may pass to reach its destination: and that this Company shall not be liable for mistakes in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery to the next connecting Telegraph Company, of any repeated message, beyond fifty times the extra sum received by this Company from the sender for repeating such message over its own lines; and that this Company shall not be liable in any case for delays arising from interruptions in the workings of its lines, nor for errors in cipher or obscure messages. And this Company is hereby made the agent of the sender, without liability, to forward any message over the lines of any other company to reach its destination.

This Company is not to be liable for damages in any case where the claim is not presented in writing within thirty days after the sending of the message.

Charles A. Stone
53 State St
Room 208.
Telephone 3396 Main

24 Cary Ave.
Chelsea.

via telephone 217
Chelsea

Rec. f. Co. House:
Salonique Feb. 5. 1904
filed Feb. 11

164

Form No. 1516.

CABLE MESSAGE.

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

INCORPORATED

All CABLE MESSAGES received for transmission must be written on the Message Blanks provided by this Company for that purpose, under and subject to the conditions printed thereon, and on the back hereof, which conditions have been agreed to by the sender of the following message.

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GLASGOW: No. 29 Cordon St. and No. 4 Waterloo St.
BRISTOL: Backhall Chambers.

TELEPHONE 3793 CALL

RECEIVED at CABLE DEPT. 109 STATE ST., BOSTON.

SEP 10 1901

33 DI A MG SALONIQUE 8

FERNSTALK BOSTON

BAND, LARGE WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN NO COMMUNICATION .

3396 Main

TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

To guard against mistakes on the lines of this Company, the sender of every message should order it repeated; that is, telegraphed back from the terminus of said lines to the Originating Office. For such repeating the sender will be charged, in addition, one-quarter the usual tolls of this Company on that portion of its lines over which such message passes.

This Company will not assume any responsibility in respect to any message beyond the terminus of its own lines; and it is agreed between the sender of the following message and this Company, that said Company shall not be liable for mistakes or delays in transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery to the next connecting Telegraph Company, of any unrepeated message, beyond the amount of that portion of the charge which may or shall accrue to this Company out of the amount received from the sender for this and the other Companies by whose lines such message may pass to reach its destination; and that this Company shall not be liable for mistakes in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery to the next connecting Telegraph Company, of any repeated messages beyond fifty times the extra sum received by this Company from the sender for repeating such message over its own lines; and that this Company shall not be liable in any case for delays arising from interruptions in the workings of its lines, nor for errors in cipher or obscure messages. And this Company is hereby made the agent of the sender, without liability, to forward any message over the lines of any other Company to reach its destination.

This Company is not to be liable for damages in any case where the claim is not presented in writing within thirty days after the sending of the message.

Rec'd [illegible]
Salonique
filed Sep. 11. 1904

Additional Details Regarding the Capture of Miss Stone and Mrs

Sept.-11-1901

Our friends on every hand are asking after Miss Stone, I ve
make the following extracts from private letters from friends in Razlog
and Strumitza:-

From the friend in Razlog I have the following under date of Sept.
"Behold eight days have passed and today is the ninth since Miss Stone
and Mrs. Tsilka were taken, and we can learn nothing about them. We
ask and enquire on every hand whether anyone has seen them
anywhere, or whether they have appeared at any place, but we can find
nothing. The authorities are seeking something but this they are
seeking in another quarter. They seek, as far as we can understand
to prove that this work has been brought about intentionally, i.e.
that we all, and even Miss Stone with us, have agreed to bring this
thing about. Who the brigands were it would be very difficult
to say. However some insist that they were Biligdrians and
that among them were some from Baresko. For this reason
they bring force to bear upon the Kiradjies (muleteers) that they may
say that they know them. One of the Kiradjies has been beaten in
the night that they might make him confess that he recognized them
perfectly --- "That which is dark will be brot to light; but on account
of the wicked the innocent must suffer".

In confirmation of this tendency of the authorities to punish the
innocent, I have the following from another source. I give the account
as gathered by another friend from the four teachers who were with the
two ladies when they were taken by the brigands:- "They were met by a
band of 30-40 men who surrounded them and said 'Teslim!'
(Turkish for 'surrender!') after they had repeated certain times
this word, the women answered 'Teslim!' and dismounted, and were
driven up the mountain by force, so that Miss Stone and Miss Tsilka
(one of the teachers) went thro the water (of a stream that flows thro the
gorge,) and wet their feet. At one place Miss Stone stumbled over a
log, as did Miss Tsilka also, but one of the brigands assisted them to
arise and supported them, holding them by the hands. When they ar-
rived at a certain place they allowed them to rest. Then they drove
them to another place where when they had sat down surrounded by
brigands, one of the brigands came up behind and called to Miss Stone,
"Kalk" (arise). When Miss Stone stood up she staid herself on the shoulder
of Miss Tsilka and said "Pray for me!" In like manner they took Mrs
Tsilka. Their watches were demanded and taken. Likewise they asked
for their money, but when they had examined it, they were not satisfied
with it and, returning it, took their watches only. It was about 7 P.M.
when they separated Miss Stone and Mrs. Tsilka from the others, and
they did not see them again. All night these four teachers were
guarded by the brigands who did not allow them to move from
places or speak to one another. In the morning at dawn there
nothing to be seen either of Mrs. Stone and Mrs Tsilka or the brigands and
two of the horses were missing. They returned to Mr. Razlog. Mr. Theodore
(a friend) of Djumaa and Ivan a Kiradjee, sent from Strumitza went
there for them, and on Saturday, Sept. 7th, they started for Djumaa surrounded
by soldiers on whose account they went slowly and took two days for the
journey, reaching there the next day, the Sabbath. Last Thurs. they were permitted to
leave Djumaa after a long examination. From there Mr. Theodore, to whom the Kaimakam
Kaim gave a traveling Tezkeri, accompanied them, but sad to tell, after reaching
Tearev he was bonna and shut up, being returned later to Djumaa. Unfor-
tunate Mr. Theodore, the reward for all is labor is chains. Do something for this brother."
[illegible] from Razlog gives again the same old story - No news

165

Commission records Thos. Elliott
Captain 2

Rec'd Oct. 5 1901

Macedonia, September 20, 1901.

W.W.Peet Esq.,
Treasurer of the American Missions.

My Honored Friend,

My first letter which I sent eleven days ago I now learn has not been forwarded to you by the person in Raslog (Macedonia) into whose hands we entrusted it. Therefore I write you again to inform you that on the 3rd of September I was captured by a great number of armed men (some forty) as I traveled from Bansko to Djumaaia, with about twelve teachers, students and others. They took with me for my companion Mrs Catharine Tsilka. The reason for which they have captured us is for a ransom. The price which they demand for us is GT.25,000 (Twenty five thousand Turkish Liras) which sum must be paid in gold, and this entirely without the knowledge of the Turkish and Bulgarian Governments, in a term of eighteen (18) days from today. In my first letter I had mentioned that the condition in which Mrs [illegible] to give birth to a child in three months. But now as the circumstances have changed, and we know that we are pursued by a Turkish Army, this short term has been fixed. I beg Dr.Haskell himself to go to Constantinople to exert himself for the payment of the ransom in Samakov, where the men will receive it only on presenting an order from me.

The men who captured us at first showed courtesy and conducted very well towards us. But now since Turkish soldiers and "Bashi-Bazouks" have begun to pursue us, and the ransom is delayed, our condition is altogether changed. Therefore I beg you to hasten the sending of the sum (i.e.of the ransom demanded) and that as much as possible you will insist before the Turkish government that it stop the pursuit of us by the soldiers and "Bashi-Bazouks", otherwise we shall be killed by the people in whose hands we are.

I pray you Mr.Peet, communicate without delay the contents of this letter to the Representative of the United States at the Porte, and request his most serious co-operation.

With hearty saluations to yourself and family. Pray for us. We are kept in the peace of God.

Your friend,
Ellen M.Stone.

Mr. W. W. Peet

Macedonia, Sep. 20. 1901

Rec'd Oct. 18.

Translation of letter from Miss Stone.

.....

Macedonia, September 20, 1901

Dr. Haskell.

My Honored Friend,

I am very sorry I must trouble you and desire of you co-operation in the solution of my difficult problem.

As the first plan for accomplishing this business through Mr. C. Petkanlieu of Bansko did not prosper, a plan has been arranged today, which you will learn as you read the enclosed letter to Mr. Peet, and will understand what has been demanded of us. I trust in your large heartedness and christian brotherliness to exert yourself as much as is in your power to help us now.

With loving salutations to your family, and to all my friends- as you beg all to pray for us, I remain,

Your friend,

Ellen M. Stone.

Dr. Haskell

Macedonia, Sep. 20. 1901

Rec'd Oct. 18.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,

Constantinople, September 20, 1901.

To the Honorable John Hay,

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Although it is now two weeks since Miss Stone was captured by the brigands no word has as yet been received about her and no demand made for ransom. Numerous reports have been received some to the effect that they were Turkish soldiers in disguise, some that they were Macedonian agitators instigated to commit the crime by the Central Bulgarian Committee in the hope of stirring up foreign intervention, and other that they were Bulgarian bandits who had crossed the frontier and that the delay in making their demands was caused by the difficulty they were experiencing in getting back into their own country, or finding a secure place of retreat, latter theory is the one I am most inclined to credit, but it is impossible at present to form a definite opinion. The Ottoman Government is doing everything that could be expected, they have already captured three men who it is claimed acted as guides, and hope through them to locate the band, but are compelled to act with caution for fear that if pressed too closely the brigands may

injure or kill Miss Stone, their idea being first to locate Miss Stone, negotiate for her safe delivery, and then pursue the band afterwards.

Regretting my inability to furnish you with more definite information at present,

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN G. A. LEISHMAN.

to
Secy Hay
Constantinople, Sept. 20
Rec'd Oct. 5-1901

Sept. 26 - 1901

Incidents Connected with the Search for Miss Stone & Mrs. Tsilka.

A special messenger arrived here from Bansko last evening who gives a very unfavorable report of the doings of the local authorities in Razlog. He gives a very different account of the arrest of Vladimir from that reported by the authorities themselves. Vladimir was not in the house of Sava, nor was he arrested in the house of Sava, but on the street as he was quietly walking by the house of a friend. It was not Vladimir (he says) who reported that he knew where the captives were confined, but Sava. It was not Vladimir who led them on the unsuccessful search for the captives in a cellar in Kresna, but Sava. Vladimir was in search of health in that town by a doctor's recommendation, as I have before stated, and a priori it was most unlikely that he could have known any thing regarding the whereabouts of the captives. He was a well known friend of Miss Stone; personally a loyal friend of the missionaries. No one of us I am sure would have thought of his taking part in such a plot. Yet he is now kept in close confinement and no friend is allowed to see him, or speak to him. He was arrested on Sept. 18th at Mehomia. On Sept. 22nd, as he was coming out of Bansko, another prominent Protestant, Kostadin Kotchev, who if possible is still less likely to have had any thing to do with the plot, was arrested in Bansko, bound, and is said to have been beaten by the way as they drove him to Mehomia. The fright produced by these arrests has induced some five or six other prominent Protestants to hide away for fear of being arrested. The Kaimakam (Governor) now demands from the Protestant community these missing ones and also demands that the Protestants produce Miss Stone & Mrs. Tsilka, claiming that they are hidden in the village.

Mr. Tsilka, while not yet arrested, is kept from going anywhere, and is obliged to show himself at the konak every day. He has asked Vali to call him to Salonica to report to him all he knows and if there is then no further need of him, to allow him to go about his work. While the effort seems to be to implicate Protestants in the plot, there has been also much beating. If several Orthodox peasants from the village of Gradovo (near where the captives were taken, and three are reported to have been so severely beaten as to have since died from the effects.

From Djumaa Bala, our preacher, an old friend of Mr. Tsilka's (father of the Vladimir mentioned above,) writes as follows:- "In place of the Kaimakam's helping to send a man in search of the captives & the brigands, he is persecuting us. On Wed. the 18th at 9 o'clock (Turkish) the Kaimakam called me and after he had examined me as to when I had gone to Bansko, why, and when I had returned he told me to tell him who were the Komittet, where they are now, and where the captives were. I replied that I knew nothing about what he asked me, that I was myself trying to learn from some source who they were and where they are, but at present I knew nothing. He told me that I knew, but would not tell, "for," said he, "you are of them and your son who is in Bansko (Vladimir), knew & has confessed all, but you don't tell!" afterwards he called both me & Mr. Todor (Christov) and examined him. As we did not know anything to tell him of that which he asked us, he said to us "Todor and you will go to prison. On Wednesday about 10 o'clock (Turkish) he put us in hold in the police-station, and there we were that night, Thursday all day and Thursday night. On Friday at about 6 o'clock (noon) he released us temporarily, but what he will do with us hereafter we do not know.

"From yesterday we hear that one Sava, of Mehomia, (Razlog) but who now lives in Bansko, was caught, and when they searched his house they found 5 or 6 guns. He confessed that he was one of the Komittet who carried off the women, and he confessed all. According to his story there were only five or six of the real "Komittet", and the others had been gathered from the districts of Razlog, Gradovo and surrounding places. Likewise also the government had learned of the place where the captives had been hidden, but as yet they had not been found. The band who pursued brigands from Melnik found somewhere in that district a company of four "Komittet", and as they would not surrender, killed all four. These, however were thought to be another band. It was reported the captives were confined in a cellar in the village of Kresna, and were guarded from the pursuit so that nobody might hide them in another place, and so on a good chance free them. But I do not know how much of this is true"

Salonica, Sept. 26th, 1901.

Incidents connected with
Nine Stonis capture

Salonica, Sept. 26 - 1901

Rec'd Oct. 10

169

170

POSTAL TELEGRAPH-CABLE COMPANY IN CONNECTION WITH THE COMMERCIAL CABLE COMPANY.

16. B.

ALBERT B. CHANDLER, President.
J. O. STEVENS, Sec'y. WM. H. BAKER, V. P. & G. M.

JOHN W. MACKAY, President.
ALBERT BECK, Sec'y. GEO. G. WARD, V. P. & G. M.

140

TELEGRAM

The Postal Telegraph-Cable Company transmits and delivers this message subject to the terms and conditions printed on the back of this blank.

40 wb sk 46 pd 140p govt 140p

Received at 14 Court Square, Boston. (Where any reply should be sent.)

Washington D C Sep 28 1901

Rev Judson Smith
Beacon St Boston. mass

Consul general dickinson telegraphs brigands demand twenty five thousand pounds turkish. He asks that your telegram be sent to this department for transmission in cipher. This seems to confirm [redacted] departments injunction of retence which I renew

David J. Hill

FORM 16.

POSTAL TELEGRAPH-CABLE COMPANY.

This Company transmits and delivers the within message subject to the following

TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

To guard against mistakes or delays, the sender of a message should order it REPEATED; that is, telegraphed back to the originating office for comparison. For this, one half the regular rate is charged in addition. It is agreed between the sender of the message written on the face hereof and the Postal Telegraph-Cable Company, that said Company shall not be liable for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery, of any UNREPEATED message, beyond the amount received for sending the same; nor for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery, of any REPEATED message beyond fifty times the sum received for sending the same, unless specially insured, nor in any case for delays arising from unavoidable interruption in the working of its lines, or for errors in cipher or obscure messages. And this Company is hereby made the agent of the sender, without liability, to forward any message over the lines of any other Company when necessary to reach its destination.

Correctness in the transmission of messages to any point on the lines of the Company can be INSURED by contract in writing, stating agreed amount of risk, and payment of premium thereon, at the following rates, in addition to the usual charge for repeated messages, viz: one per cent. for any distance not exceeding 1,000 miles, and two per cent. for any greater distance.

No responsibility regarding messages attaches to this Company until the same are presented and accepted at one of its transmitting offices; and if a message is sent to such office by one of this Company's messengers, he acts for that purpose as the agent of the sender.

Messages will be delivered free within the established free delivery limits of the terminal office. For delivery at a greater distance a special charge will be made to cover the cost of such delivery.

This Company will not be liable for damages or statutory penalties in any case where the claim is not presented in writing within sixty days after the message is filed with the company for transmission.

This is an UNREPEATED Message and is delivered by request of the sender under the conditions named above. Errors can be guarded against only by repeating a message back to the sending station for comparison.

No employee of this Company is authorized to vary the foregoing.

WILLIAM H. BAKER, V. P. and Gen'l Manager. JOHN O. STEVENS, Secretary. ALBERT B. CHANDLER, President.

David F. Hill
Washington, Sep. 28, 1904
Rec'd Sep. 28

Repeated to 2018 Hanover Ave.
Cor. Clement St. Portland

Form No. 1.

171

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

INCORPORATED

21,000 OFFICES IN AMERICA. CABLE SERVICE TO ALL THE WORLD.

This Company **TRANSMITS** and **DELIVERS** messages only on conditions limiting its liability, which have been assented to by the sender of the following message. Errors can be guarded against only by repeating a message back to the sending station for comparison, and the Company will not hold itself liable for errors or delays in transmission or delivery of **Unrepeated Messages**, beyond the amount of tolls paid thereon, nor in any case where the claim is not presented in writing within sixty days after the message is filed with the Company for transmission.
This is an **UNREPEATED MESSAGE**, and is delivered by request of the sender, under the conditions named above.

THOS. T. ECKERT, President and General Manager.

NUMBER	SENT BY	RECD BY		CHECK
29	MT	X	42 ft Roxbury	5 40

RECEIVED at Dudley St Cor Warren St., Roxbury, Mass. Sept 29 1901

Dated Washington D C

To Rev. Judson Smith
Beacon St or by 218
Walnut Ave Boston

Confidential. Legation reports later intelligence received from Buganda has hopes of arranging with them for ransom within means of bible house & missionaries is working and will

Washingt.

Rec

172

No. 1.

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

INCORPORATED

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This is an **UNREPEATED MESSAGE**, and is delivered by request of the sender, under the conditions named above.

THOS. T. ECKERT, President and General Manager.

NUMBER	SENT BY	REC'D BY	CHECK

RECEIVED at 113 A Dudley St Cor Warren St., Roxbury, Mass. 190

Dated

To

make every Effort

Alvey A. Adee

acty Secy

on, Sept. 29 - 1901

d Sept. 29

Form No. 1.

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

173

INCORPORATED

21,000 OFFICES IN AMERICA. CABLE SERVICE TO ALL THE WORLD.

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THOS. T. ECKERT, President and General Manager.

946

NUMBER	SENT BY	REC'D BY	CHECK
76B	My	9/	81 Paid nPR 4 Ex

RECEIVED at 143 A Dudley St Cor Warren St., Roxbury, Mass. Oct 3 1901

Dated Newyork 3

To Dr. Judson Smith.

Secy foreign dept Amn Board Foreign Missions

"Deliver at Residence tonight" Ty 218 Walnut ave Boston

Our advices from Constantinople tonight are that Dickenson, Consul Genl at Constantinople has gone to Sofia on case of Miss Stone that there seems likely chance of her release except by paying

STAL TELEGRAPH-CABLE COMPANY IN CONNECTION WITH THE COMMERCIAL CABLE COMPANY.

JOHN W. MACKAY, President.
J. O. STEVENS, Sec'y. WM. H. BAKER, V. P. & G. M.

JOHN W. MACKAY, President.
ALBERT BECK, Sec'y. GEO. G. WARD, V. P. & G. M.

TELEGRAM

571

ostal Telegraph-Cable Company transmits and delivers this message subject to the terms and conditions printed on the back of this blank.

Received at
234 Devonshire Street.
(WHERE ANY REPLY SHOULD BE SENT.)

H2NY HP SX 337 Paid,GOVERNMENT.

WASHINGTON,D.C.,October 3,1901.

Rev Judson Smith,

14 Beacon Street,

BOSTON,Mass.

Only one letter from Miss Stone is mentioned in telegrams from Constantinople it was dated September twentieth and was brought to the legation by Missionary Haskell of Samfue,having been delivered to him there by an agent of the brigands on Sept 28. Mr Eddy said quote "In this letter Miss Stone declares that if ransom of twenty five thousand Turkish pounds is not paid before October eighth she will be killed" end quote. The Fuller particualrs telegraph in the press have not reached the department. The acting secretary at once telegraphed to the legation and to Mr Dickinson instructions as to their course,directing them to use their best endeavors to aid in the rescue of Miss Stone,incidentally approving Mr Eddys efforts to bring about a reduction of the ransom demanded no telegram has been received from the legation since my last telegram to you. What follows is strictly confidential. It seems imperative that the Amount should be raised or pledged so as to be available by your treasurer at Constantinople in season to save Miss Stone. Statury prohibitions make it impossible for this government to advance the money or guarantee

FORM 16.

POSTAL TELEGRAPH-CABLE COMPANY.

This Company transmits and delivers the within message subject to the following

TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

To guard against mistakes or delays, the sender of a message should order it REPEATED; that is, telegraphed k to the originating office for comparison. For this, one half the regular rate is charged in addition. It is ed between the sender of the message written on the face hereof and the Postal Telegraph-Cable Company, said Company shall not be liable for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery, y UNREPEATED message, beyond the amount received for sending the same; nor for mistakes or delays in the mission or delivery, or for non-delivery, of any REPEATED message beyond fifty times the sum received for ing the same, unless specially insured, nor in any case for delays arising from unavoidable interruption in orking of its lines, or for errors in cipher or obscure messages. And this Company is hereby made the agent e sender, without liability, to forward any message over the lines of any other Company when necessary to h its destination.

Correctness in the transmission of messages to any point on the lines of the Company can be INSURED by ract in writing, stating agreed amount of risk, and payment of premium thereon, at the following rates, in tion to the usual charge for repeated messages, viz: one per cent. for any distance not exceeding 1,000 miles, two per cent. for any greater distance.

No responsibility regarding messages attaches to this Company until the same are presented and accepted at of its transmitting offices; and if a message is sent to such office by one of this Company's messengers, he for that purpose as the agent of the sender.

Messages will be delivered free within the established free delivery limits of the terminal office. For delivery greater distance a special charge will be made to cover the cost of such delivery.

This Company will not be liable for damages or statutory penalties in any case where the claim is not pre- ed in writing within sixty days after the message is filed with the company for transmission.

This is an UNREPEATED Message and is delivered by request of the sender under the conditions named above. rs can be guarded against only by repeating a message back to the sending station for comparison.

No employee of this Company is authorized to vary the foregoing.

ILLIAM H. BAKER,	JOHN O. STEVENS,	JOHN W. MACKAY,
V. P. and Gen'l Manager.	Secretary.	President.

STAL TELEGRAPH-CABLE COMPANY IN CONNECTION WITH THE COMMERCIAL CABLE COMPANY.

16, LO.

JOHN W. MACKAY, President.
J. O. STEVENS, Sec'y. WM. H. BAKER, V. P. & G. M.

JOHN W. MACKAY, President.
ALBERT BECK, Sec'y. GEO. G. WARD, V. P. & G. M.

TELEGRAM

Postal Telegraph-Cable Company transmits and delivers this message subject to the terms and conditions printed on the back of this blank.

Received at

(2)

Washington, D.C. Oct 3-1901.

(WHERE ANY REPLY SHOULD BE SENT.)

its payment. If paid by Miss Stones friends every effort will be made to obtain reimbursement from which-ever government may be found responsible under international law and precedent. In the event of its proving impossible to hold any foreign government responsible for the capture and to secure the repayment of the money, this government is willing, in the last resort, to urge upon congress as strongly as possible to appropriate money to repay the missionaries. Forward promptly to department all information you may receive important in the interest of Miss Stone that no communications be made public. The department will do all in its power for her rescue and would be glad if you can suggest to it anything further which it can do, as it will gladly do everything possible.

Alvey A. Adee,

Acting Secretary.

2:40 p.m.

FORM 16.

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LLIAM H. BAKER,	JOHN O. STEVENS,	JOHN W. MACKAY,
V. P. and Gen'l Manager.	Secretary.	President.

Washington Bot. 3

Paris Bot. 3

Form No. 1.

175

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

INCORPORATED

21,000 OFFICES IN AMERICA. CABLE SERVICE TO ALL THE WORLD.

This Company **TRANSMITS** and **DELIVERS** messages only on conditions limiting its liability, which have been assented to by the sender of the following message. Errors can be guarded against only by repeating a message back to the sending station for comparison, and the Company will not hold itself liable for errors or delays in transmission or delivery of **Unrepeated Messages**, beyond the amount of tolls paid thereon, nor in any case where the claim is not presented in writing within sixty days after the message is filed with the Company for transmission.

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THOS. T. ECKERT, President and General Manager.

NUMBER	SENT BY	REC'D BY		CHECK
75B	My	9	93 Paid	Govt Rate Oct 3

RECEIVED at _____ 190/

Dated Washington DC 3

To Rev Judson Smith Beacon St

Try 218 Walnut Ave. Boston Mass.

Mr Eddys telegram reporting miss Stones letter from which I quoted today, added that he was in communication with agent of brigands with hope of obtaining reduction within power of missionaries to pay. He has not since reported

Form No. 1.

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THOS. T. ECKERT, President and General Manager.

NUMBER	SENT BY	REC'D BY	CHECK

RECEIVED at _____ 190

Dated _____

To _____

any success in this direction limit demanded should be provided. But less may suffice. Your telegram with message for Haskell and Legation asking extension of time has been sent to Mr Eddy in Cypher with orders to rush to Haskell Ofear

Form No. 1.

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

INCORPORATED

21,000 OFFICES IN AMERICA. CABLE SERVICE TO ALL THE WORLD.

This Company **TRANSMITS** and **DELIVERS** messages only on conditions limiting its liability, which have been assented to by the sender of the following message. Errors can be guarded against only by repeating a message back to the sending station for comparison, and the Company will not hold itself liable for errors or delays in transmission or delivery of **Unrepeated Messages**, beyond the amount of tolls paid thereon, nor in any case where the claim is not presented in writing within sixty days after the message is filed with the Company for transmission.

This is an **UNREPEATED MESSAGE**, and is delivered by request of the sender, under the conditions named above.

THOS. T. ECKERT, President and General Manager.

NUMBER	SENT BY	REC'D BY	CHECK

RECEIVED at _____ _____ 190

Dated _____

To _____

request iss impracatable

Alvey A Adee

Washington, Oct. 3, 1901.

Rec'd Oct. 8.

Form No. 1.

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

176

INCORPORATED

21,000 OFFICES IN AMERICA. CABLE SERVICE TO ALL THE WORLD.

This Company **TRANSMITS** and **DELIVERS** messages only on conditions limiting its liability, which have been assented to by the sender of the following message. Errors can be guarded against only by repeating a message back to the sending station for comparison, and the Company will not hold itself liable for errors or delays in transmission or delivery of **Unrepeated Messages,** beyond the amount of tolls paid thereon, nor in any case where the claim is not presented in writing within sixty days after the message is filed with the Company for transmission.

This is an **UNREPEATED MESSAGE,** and is delivered by request of the sender, under the conditions named above.

THOS. T. ECKERT, President and General Manager.

NUMBER	SENT BY	REC'D BY	CHECK

RECEIVED at 1241 Dudley St Cor Warren St., Roxbury, Mass Oct 3 1901

Dated

To

ransom and that on principle the amm Board will not pay ransom Will you wire tonight at our expense making clear the boards attidue as to ransom. would board stick to its no ransom principle to extent of letting miss Stone be put to death

My World

N.Y. World

New York, Oct. 3, 1901.

Rec'd Oct. 3.

N. Y. World
New York
Oct 3. 1901

177

POSTAL TELEGRAPH-CABLE COMPANY IN CONNECTION WITH THE COMMERCIAL CABLE COMPANY.

16, B.

ALBERT B. CHANDLER, President.
J. O. STEVENS, Sec'y. WM. H. BAKER, V. P. & G. M.

JOHN W. MACKAY, President.
ALBERT BECK, Sec'y. GEO. G. WARD, V. P. & G. M.

TELEGRAM

14 510

The Postal Telegraph-Cable Company transmits and delivers this message subject to the terms and conditions printed on the back of this blank.

Received at 14 Court Square, Boston. (Where any reply should be sent.)

Washington D.C. 4 Oct. 4/01

Rev Judson Smith
Beacon St.
Boston Mass.

Your telegram of yesterday regarding Macedonian Committee has had attention agent at Sofia has been instructed as to his treatment of the Committee question in dealing with Bulgarian government -

Alvey A. Adee Acting Secy.

Hon. A. A. Adee
Washington D.C.
Mar 20 1891

Design Patent Dec. 20 1887.

POSTAL TELEGRAPH CABLE COMPANY INCORPORATED CONNECTION WITH THE COMMERCIAL (MORSE-SEIMENS) CABLES REGISTERED TRADE MARK

FORM 16.

POSTAL TELEGRAPH-CABLE COMPANY.

This Company transmits and delivers the within message subject to the following

TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

To guard against mistakes or delays, the sender of a message should order it REPEATED; that is, telegraphed back to the originating office for comparison. For this, one half the regular rate is charged in addition. It is agreed between the sender of the message written on the face hereof and the Postal Telegraph-Cable Company, that said Company shall not be liable for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery, of any UNREPEATED message, beyond the amount received for sending the same; nor for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery, of any REPEATED message beyond fifty times the sum received for sending the same, unless specially insured, nor in any case for delays arising from unavoidable interruption in the working of its lines, or for errors in cipher or obscure messages. And this Company is hereby made the agent of the sender, without liability, to forward any message over the lines of any other Company when necessary to reach its destination.

Correctness in the transmission of messages to any point on the lines of the Company can be INSURED by contract in writing, stating agreed amount of risk, and payment of premium thereon, at the following rates, in addition to the usual charge for repeated messages, viz: one per cent. for any distance not exceeding 1,000 miles, and two per cent. for any greater distance.

No responsibility regarding messages attaches to this Company until the same are presented and accepted at one of its transmitting offices; and if a message is sent to such office by one of this Company's messengers, he acts for that purpose as the agent of the sender.

Messages will be delivered free within the established free delivery limits of the terminal office. For delivery at a greater distance a special charge will be made to cover the cost of such delivery.

This Company will not be liable for damages or statutory penalties in any case where the claim is not presented in writing within sixty days after the message is filed with the company for transmission.

This is an UNREPEATED Message and is delivered by request of the sender under the conditions named above. Errors can be guarded against only by repeating a message back to the sending station for comparison.

No employee of this Company is authorized to vary the foregoing.

WILLIAM H. BAKER, V. P. and Gen'l Manager. JOHN O. STEVENS, Secretary. ALBERT B. CHANDLER, President.

Form No. 1.

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

INCORPORATED

21,000 OFFICES IN AMERICA. CABLE SERVICE TO ALL THE WORLD.

178

This Company **TRANSMITS** and **DELIVERS** messages only on conditions limiting its liability, which have been assented to by the sender of the following message. Errors can be guarded against only by repeating a message back to the sending station for comparison, and the Company will not hold itself liable for errors or delays in transmission or delivery of **Unrepeated Messages**, beyond the amount of tolls paid thereon, nor in any case where the claim is not presented in writing within sixty days after the message is filed with the Company for transmission.

This is an **UNREPEATED MESSAGE**, and is delivered by request of the sender, under the conditions named above.

THOS. T. ECKERT, President and General Manager.

2163

NUMBER	SENT BY	REC'D BY		CHECK
TW	JM	PV	8 8pd	Govt Rate

RECEIVED at 109 State Street, BOSTON.

Dated Washington DC 4 Oct 4 1901

To Rev Judson Smith

Boston Mass

The president has throughout taken keenest personal interest in the rescue of Miss Stone. Of course you are aware that under the constitution the executive has absolutely no power to pay out a dollar from the public treasury save by express act by Congress

The department has been doing and will continue to do everything possible to accomplish the rescue. The president will be glad to meet you and the Comm tomorrow at any time between eleven and one oclock

Adee, Acting Secretary

10.40pm.

Hon. A. A. Adee

Washington Oct. 4

Recd Oct. 5 - 1901

Washington Oct. 4 1901

Recd Oct. 5 -

Hon A. A. Adee

Washington

Oct. 4, 1901

L/S

Department of State,

Washington, October 4, 1901.

Reverend Judson Smith,

American Board of Commissioners for Foreign

Missions,

Boston, Massachusetts.

S i r :

I enclose herewith copy of a despatch which has just been received from the Minister of the United States at Constantinople in regard to the case of Miss Stone.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant

Alvey A. Adee

Acting Secretary.

Enclosure:

From Turkey, No. 75, September 20, 1901.

Hon. C. C. Adee

Washington Oct. 4

Rec'd Oct. 5 - 1901

L 07

180

T/J

Department of State,

Washington, October 5, 1901.

Reverend Judson Smith,

Corresponding Secretary of the American Board of

Commissioners for Foreign Missions,

14 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass.

Sir:

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your two letters of the 25th and 28th ultimo, respectively, in relation to the ransom demanded for the release of Miss Stone, and to inform you in reply that this Department is doing and will continue to do everything within its powers and functions to relieve the situation.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant

Alvey A. Adee

Acting Secretary.

Hon. A. A. Adee

Washington, Oct. 5 1911

Rec'd Oct. 7

Form No. 1.

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

INCORPORATED

21,000 OFFICES IN AMERICA. CABLE SERVICE TO ALL THE WORLD.

181

This Company **TRANSMITS** and **DELIVERS** messages only on conditions limiting its liability, which have been assented to by the sender of the following message. Errors can be guarded against only by repeating a message back to the sending station for comparison, and the Company will not hold itself liable for errors or delays in transmission or delivery of **Unrepeated Messages**, beyond the amount of tolls paid thereon, nor in any case where the claim is not presented in writing within sixty days after the message is filed with the Company for transmission.

This is an **UNREPEATED MESSAGE**, and is delivered by request of the sender, under the conditions named above.

THOS. T. ECKERT, President and General Manager.

1954

NUMBER	SENT BY	REC'D BY	CHECK
880	Cou	22 pd	Govt Rate

RECEIVED at 109 State Street, BOSTON. Oct 6 1901

Dated Washington DC 6

To Rev Judson Smith, American Mission Board Boston Mass

Nothing from Eddy In Sense of Poets dispatch. presume he is in consultation with Pres But observing reticence for Reasons Stated. — Alvey A Adee

Rec'd Oct. 6

Hon A. A. Adee
Washington
Oct 6, 1891

182

Form No. 1516.

CABLE MESSAGE.

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

INCORPORATED

All CABLE MESSAGES received for transmission must be written on the Message Blanks provided by this Company for that purpose under and subject to the conditions printed thereon, and on the back hereof, which conditions have been agreed to by the sender of the following message.

THOS. T. ECKERT, President and General Manager.

TWO AMERICAN CABLES FROM NEW YORK TO GREAT BRITAIN.
CONNECTS ALSO WITH FIVE ANGLO-AMERICAN AND ONE DIRECT U. S. ATLANTIC CABLES.
DIRECT CABLE COMMUNICATION WITH GERMANY AND FRANCE.
CABLE CONNECTION WITH CUBA, WEST INDIES, MEXICO AND CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA.
MESSAGES SENT TO, AND RECEIVED FROM, ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD.

OFFICES IN AMERICA:

All Offices (21,000) of the Western Union Telegraph Company and its Connections.

all7ny yj-bw

OFFICES IN GREAT BRITAIN:

LONDON:
No. 21 Royal Exchange, E. C.
No. 109 Fenchurch Street, E. C.

LIVERPOOL: No. 8 Rumford Street.
GLASGOW: No. 29 Gordon St. and No. 4 Waterloo St.
BRISTOL: Backhall Chambers.

RECEIVED at

all7ny yj bw- -20

1801

Oct 6-1901

Constantinople

Fernstalk Boston Mass

Full details and plans recouery misz stone mailed last neek

counsel friends patience publicity imperills succes peet.

12pm-

TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

To guard against mistakes on the lines of this Company, the sender of every message should order it repeated; that is, telegraphed back from the terminus of said lines to the Originating Office. For such repeating, the sender will be charged in addition, one-half the usual tolls of this Company on that portion of its lines over which such message passes.

This Company will not assume any responsibility in respect to any Message beyond the terminus of its own lines; and it is agreed between the sender of the following Message and this Company, that said Company shall not be liable for mistakes or delays in transmission or delivery, or non-delivery to the next connecting Telegraph Company, of any unrepeated message, beyond the amount of that portion of the charge which may or shall accrue to this Company out of the amount received from the sender for this, and the other companies, by whose lines such message may pass to reach its destination; and that this Company shall not be liable for mistakes in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery to the next connecting Telegraph Company, of any repeated message, beyond fifty times the extra sum received by this Company from the sender for repeating such message over its own lines; and that this Company shall not be liable in any case for delays arising from interruptions in the workings of its lines, nor for errors in cipher or obscure messages. And this Company is hereby made the agent of the sender, without liability, to forward any message over the lines of any other company to reach its destination.

This Company is not to be liable for damages in any case where the claim is not presented in writing within thirty days after the sending of the message.

Recd Feb 6

Constantinople Oct. 6-1901

183

POSTAL TELEGRAPH-CABLE COMPANY IN CONNECTION WITH THE COMMERCIAL CABLE COMPANY

20

JOHN W. MACKAY, President.
J. O. STEVENS, Sec'y. WM. H. BAKER, V. P. & G. M.

JOHN W. MACKAY, President.
ALBERT BECK, Sec'y. GEO. G. WARD, V. P. & G. M.

CABLEGRAM.

779

Postal Telegraph-Cable Company transmits and delivers this cablegram subject to the terms and conditions printed on the back of this blank.

NUMBER | SENT BY | REC'D BY | CHECK

137ny tw by 11 via French Cable

Received at 204 Devonshire St., Boston.

(WHERE ANY REPLY SHOULD BE SENT.)

190

Samakow, Oct 6, 1901

America Boston Fernstalk.

Beg Stone not telegraph us endangers case.

Haskell.

730 P.M.

No Inquiry respecting this message can be attended to without the production of this paper. *Repetitions of doubtful words should be obtained through the Company's offices, and not by DIRECT application to the sender.*

THE POSTAL COMPANY'S SYSTEM REACHES ALL IMPORTANT POINTS IN THE UNITED STATES AND BRITISH AMERICA, AND via COMMERCIAL CABLES, ALL THE WORLD.

Design Patented, Dec. 20, 1887.

POSTAL TELEGRAPH-CABLE COMPANY.

This Company transmits and delivers the within CABLEGRAM subject to the following

TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

THIS COMPANY may decline to forward any message, though it has been accepted for transmission, but in case of so doing, shall refund to the sen the amount paid for its transmission.

THIS COMPANY WILL NOT ASSUME ANY RESPONSIBILITY IN RESPECT TO ANY MESSAGE BEYOND THE TERMIN OF ITS OWN LINES.

To guard against mistakes or delays, the sender of a message should WRITE IT LEGIBLY and order it REPEATED, that is, telegraphed bac the sending station for comparison. For such repeating, an additional charge of one-quarter the regular rate will be made.

It is agreed between the sender of the message on the face hereof, and this Company, that said Company shall not be liable for mistakes or delay transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery, or mis-delivery, of any unrepeated message beyond the amount of that portion of the charge which may or s accrue to this Company out of the amount received from the sender for this, and the other companies, by whose lines such message may pass to reach destination; and that this Company shall not be liable for mistakes in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery, or mis-delivery, of any repea message beyond fifty times the extra sum received by this Company from the sender for repeating such message over its own lines.

This Company is hereby made the agent of the sender without liability to foward any message by the lines of any other company to reach its destinati

This Company shall not be responsible for messages until they are presented and accepted at one of its transmitting offices; if a message be sent to s office by on of the Company's messengers the messenger acts for that purpose as the agent of the sender, if by telephone, the person receiving the mess acts therein as the agent of the sender, and is authorized to assent to these conditions on behalf of the sender.

This Company shall not be liable in any case where the claim is not presented in writing within sixty days after the filing of the message.

This Company shall not be liable in any case for delays arising from interruptions to the working of its lines nor for errors in cipher or obscure messag

This is an UNREPEATED message and is delivered by request of the sender under the conditions named above.

WILLIAM H. BAKER, V. P. and Gen'l Manager. *JOHN O. STEVENS, Secretary.* *JOHN W. MACKAY, Preside*

Paid Cash

184

Form No. 168.

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

INCORPORATED

21,000 OFFICES IN AMERICA. CABLE SERVICE TO ALL THE WORLD.

This Company **TRANSMITS** and **DELIVERS** messages only on conditions limiting its liability, which have been assented to by the sender of the following message. Errors can be guarded against only by repeating a message back to the sending station for comparison, and the Company will not hold itself liable for errors or delays in transmission or delivery of **Unrepeated Messages**, beyond the amount of tolls paid thereon, nor in any case where the claim is not presented in writing within sixty days after the message is filed with the Company for transmission.
This is an **UNREPEATED MESSAGE**, and is delivered by request of the sender, under the conditions named above.
THOS. T. ECKERT, President and General Manager.

RECEIVED at 109 State Street, BOSTON.

1857
185?

7w JN FY --- 133 Paid Govt.

Washington D C Oct 6 1901

Rev Judson Smith, American Mission Board Beacon St;

Boston, Mass.

Your gratifying message has been cabled to Constantinople asking Eddy to inform Peet and haskell in-as-much as time as of the utmost importance can you not authorize Peet to make good for the time being any deficit in the subscribed amount which Kidder Peabody may be able to remit by cable tomorrow. I beleive with you the money can be raised but I doubt if by noon tomorrow. I am just in receipt of cables from Eddy and Ambassador Tower cordial cooperation of russia assured both at sofia and Constantinople. English representtatives already assisting and aid of german and Austrian embassies may be hoped for. Dickinson cables from Sofia

Russian agent cables me direct saying instructied to support Dickinson-s steps.

Alvey A. Adee.....316PM.

185

POSTAL TELEGRAPH-CABLE COMPANY IN CONNECTION WITH THE COMMERCIAL CABLE COMPANY.

16, B.

ALBERT B. CHANDLER, President.
J. O. STEVENS, Sec'y. WM. H. BAKER, V. P. & G. M.

JOHN W. MACKAY, President.
ALBERT BECK, Sec'y. GEO. G. WARD, V. P. & G. M.

TELEGRAM

The Postal Telegraph-Cable Company transmits and delivers this message subject to the terms and conditions printed on the back of this blank.

Received at 14 Court Square, Boston. (Where any reply should be sent.)

CABLE-------- 1220

27 cr jn 12 Samoko via French

Fernstalk,

(rev Judson Smith, room 14-1 Somerset St) Boston.

America. Assure stune every-thing being done hope in god

Haskell.

FORM 16.

POSTAL TELEGRAPH-CABLE COMPANY.

This Company transmits and delivers the within message subject to the following

TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

To guard against mistakes or delays, the sender of a message should order it REPEATED; that is, telegraphed k to the originating office for comparison. For this, one half the regular rate is charged in addition. It is ed between the sender of the message written on the face hereof and the Postal Telegraph-Cable Company, said Company shall not be liable for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery, ny UNREPEATED message, beyond the amount received for sending the same; nor for mistakes or delays in the nsmission or delivery, or for non-delivery, of any REPEATED message beyond fifty times the sum received for ding the same, unless specially insured, nor in any case for delays arising from unavoidable interruption in working of its lines, or for errors in cipher or obscure messages. And this Company is hereby made the agent he sender, without liability, to forward any message over the lines of any other Company when necessary to ch its destination.

Correctness in the transmission of messages to any point on the lines of the Company can be INSURED by tract in writing, stating agreed amount of risk, and payment of premium thereon, at the following rates, in ition to the usual charge for repeated messages, viz: one per cent. for any distance not exceeding 1,000 miles, two per cent. for any greater distance.

No responsibility regarding messages attaches to this Company until the same are presented and accepted at of its transmitting offices; and if a message is sent to such office by one of this Company's messengers, he for that purpose as the agent of the sender.

Messages will be delivered free within the established free delivery limits of the terminal office. For delivery greater distance a special charge will be made to cover the cost of such delivery.

This Company will not be liable for damages or statutory penalties in any case where the claim is not pre- ed in writing within sixty days after the message is filed with the company for transmission.

This is an UNREPEATED Message and is delivered by request of the sender under the conditions named above. rs can be guarded against only by repeating a message back to the sending station for comparison.

o employee of this Company is authorized to vary the foregoing.

VILLIAM H. BAKER,	JOHN O. STEVENS,	ALBERT B. CHANDLER,
V. P. and Gen'l Manager.	Secretary.	President.

Pr. Harbell
Carrington
Pres't Col. T. 1901

Form No. 1.

186

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

INCORPORATED

21,000 OFFICES IN AMERICA. CABLE SERVICE TO ALL THE WORLD.

This Company **TRANSMITS** and **DELIVERS** messages only on conditions limiting its liability, which have been assented to by the sender of the following message. Errors can be guarded against only by repeating a message back to the sending station for comparison, and the Company will not hold itself liable for errors or delays in transmission or delivery of **Unrepeated Messages**, beyond the amount of tolls paid thereon, nor in any case where the claim is not presented in writing within sixty days after the message is filed with the Company for transmission.

This is an **UNREPEATED MESSAGE**, and is delivered by request of the sender, under the conditions named above.

THOS. T. ECKERT, President and General Manager.

NUMBER	SENT BY	REC'D BY	CHECK
43 w	Bze	J	61 Paid Govt	1669

RECEIVED at 109 State Street, BOSTON. Oct 7 190 1

Dated Washn DC

To Rev Judson Smith

American Missions =

= Board Boston Mass

Your telegram recd. also one from Kidder Peabody & Co with whom I have also communicated by telephone I have cabled Eddy to draw for the sum so remitted by the Bankers thirty five thousand Dollars. To be applied after consultation with Pott toward Ransom if indispensable to save life.

Alvey. A. Adee.

3.49 Pm

Washington, Oct. 7

Recd Oct. 7-1901

POSTAL TELEGRAPH-CABLE COMPANY IN CONNECTION WITH THE COMMERCIAL CABLE COMPANY.

16, H.

JOHN W. MACKAY, President.
J. O. STEVENS, Sec'y. WM. H. BAKER, V. P. & G. M.

JOHN W. MACKAY, President.
ALBERT BECK, Sec'y. GEO. G. WARD, V. P. & G. M.

TELEGRAM

32

1111

The Postal Telegraph-Cable Company transmits and delivers this message subject to the terms and conditions printed on the back of this blank.

Received at No. 3 Central Row, Hartford, Conn. (Where any reply should be sent).

B O 46Pd govt Oct 8

Washington D C. 8

Per Judson Smith
Cr allyn House Hfd Ct

Strictly confidential, Eddy & Peet agree that it is important to avoid publicity as to amounts raised, their efforts to save life may test be subserved by impression that amount demanded cannot be raised by

FORM 16.

POSTAL TELEGRAPH-CABLE COMPANY.

This Company transmits and delivers the within message subject to the following

TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

guard against mistakes or delays, the sender of a message should order it REPEATED; that is, telegraphed the originating office for comparison. For this, one-half the regular rate is charged in addition. It is between the sender of the message written on the face hereof and the Postal Telegraph-Cable Company id Company shall not be liable for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery, UNREPEATED message, beyond the amount received for sending the same; nor for mistakes or delays in the ission or delivery, or for non-delivery, of any REPEATED message beyond fifty times the sum received for the same, unless specially insured, nor in any case for delays arising from unavoidable interruption in king of its lines, or for errors in cipher or obscure messages. And this Company is hereby made the agent ender, without liability, to forward any message over the lines of any other Company when necessary to its destination.

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employee of this Company is authorized to vary the foregoing.

IAM H. BAKER,	JOHN O. STEVENS,	JOHN W. MACKAY
V. P. and Gen'l Manager.	Secretary.	President.

POSTAL TELEGRAPH-CABLE COMPANY IN CONNECTION WITH THE COMMERCIAL CABLE COMPANY.

16, H.

JOHN W. MACKAY, President.
J. O. STEVENS, Sec'y. WM. H. BAKER, V. P. & G. M.

JOHN W. MACKAY, President.
ALBERT BECK, Sec'y. GEO. G. WARD, V. P. & G. M.

TELEGRAM

The Postal Telegraph-Cable Company transmits and delivers this message subject to the terms and conditions printed on the back of this blank.

Received at No. 3 Central Row, Hartford, Conn. (Where any reply should be sent).

30

Charitable donations

adee

FORM 16.

POSTAL TELEGRAPH-CABLE COMPANY.

This Company transmits and delivers the within message subject to the following

TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

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is an UNREPEATED Message and is delivered by request of the sender under the conditions named above. n be guarded against only by repeating a message back to the sending station for comparison.

mployee of this Company is authorized to vary the foregoing.

AM H. BAKER,	JOHN O. STEVENS,	JOHN W. MACKAY
V. P. and Gen'l Manager.	Secretary.	President.

Recd at Office
Washington Oct. 8
Recd Oct. 8-1901

Form No. 1.

188

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

INCORPORATED

21,000 OFFICES IN AMERICA. CABLE SERVICE TO ALL THE WORLD.

This Company **TRANSMITS** and **DELIVERS** messages only on conditions limiting its liability, which have been assented to by the sender of the following message. Errors can be guarded against only by repeating a message back to the sending station for comparison, and the Company will not hold itself liable for errors or delays in transmission or delivery of **Unrepeated Messages,** beyond the amount of tolls paid thereon, nor in any case where the claim is not presented in writing within sixty days after the message is filed with the Company for transmission.

This is an **UNREPEATED MESSAGE**, and is delivered by request of the sender, under the conditions named above.

THOS. T. ECKERT, President and General Manager.

NUMBER	SENT BY	REC'D BY	CHECK
138	Fey	1325	863

RECEIVED at 109 State Street, BOSTON

Dated New York Oct 10 190

To Dr Judson Smiths office
American Board of Foreign Missions
Boston

Can you furnish stone photographs for which we wrote Tuesday.
please answer Collect

Harpers Weekly. 1102a

New York, Oct. 10 1901

Recd Oct. 10

Ansd Harper's Weekly

Form No. 1.

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

INCORPORATED

21,000 OFFICES IN AMERICA. CABLE SERVICE TO ALL THE WORLD.

189

This Company **TRANSMITS** and **DELIVERS** messages only on conditions limiting its liability, which have been assented to by the sender of the following message. Errors can be guarded against only by repeating a message back to the sending station for comparison, and the Company will not hold itself liable for errors or delays in transmission or delivery of **Unrepeated Messages**, beyond the amount of tolls paid thereon, nor in any case where the claim is not presented in writing within sixty days after the message is filed with the Company for transmission.

This is an **UNREPEATED MESSAGE**, and is delivered by request of the sender, under the conditions named above.

THOS. T. ECKERT, President and General Manager.

1241

NUMBER	SENT BY	RECD BY	CHECK
W 29	Pa	Pon	117 Paid Govt

RECEIVED at 109 State Street, BOSTON.

Dated Washington D.C. Oct 7 1901

To Rev. Judson Smith Boston Mass

Consult Bankers as to whether remittance could be most expeditiously cabled by them to Spencer F. Eddy United States Charge D'Affairs Constantinople or be negotiated to Constantinople by Mr Eddys draft on the Department of State If the latter course, Mr

10

Eddy would be at once called on on receiving Bankers advise of remittance as intercourse with Brigands has apparently been conducted through Missionary agencies of which department has no particulars Eddy cannot be precisely instructed but will be

10

ordered to confer with Pet & use his best discretion as to paying the money or as much as may be required should payment of ransom be found indispensible

Alvey A. Adee

108Pm

Washington Oct. 7-1901
Recd Oct. 7

Hon. Adee
Washington
Oct 7. 1901

1

FORM 17.

PRESS TELEGRAM.

POSTAL TELEGRAPH-CABLE COMPANY.

190

NO.	SHEET NO.	SENT BY.	REC'D BY.	CHECK
B	1	DS	G	55-pd 5x

Boston Oct 9

President Saml B. Capen, &
Secy Dr Judson Smith

Let me suggest public appeal should designate messrs Kidder Peabody & Company 115 Devonshire street Boston and their correspondents messrs Baring Magoun & Company 15 Wall St New York as depositories autographic copies addressed to leading bankers & business men principal cities should induce prompt and liberal responses

Chas A. Stone

Boston, Oct. 9-1901

Recd Oct. 9

FORM 17.

PRESS TELEGRAM.

191

306

POSTAL TELEGRAPH-CABLE COMPANY

99

MSG. NO.	SHEET NO.	SENT BY.	REC'D BY.	CHECK
72	ny	wjq		41 Pd Govt

From Washington DC 9 Oct

To Rev Judson Smith

Cr Allyn House

Hfd Ct

Confidential – Dickinson reports
miss Stone well on Saturday
Brigands located with possibility
of yielding to Bulgarian authority
without endangering prisoner.
best not to publish last clause
merely give out location & well

Adee

Washington Oct. 9

Recd Oct. 9

192

POSTAL TELEGRAPH-CABLE COMPANY IN CONNECTION WITH THE COMMERCIAL CABLE COMPANY.

16, H.

JOHN W. MACKAY, President.
J. O. STEVENS, Sec'y. WM. H. BAKER, V. P. & G. M.

JOHN W. MACKAY, President.
ALBERT BECK, Sec'y. GEO. G. WARD, V. P. & G. M.

1018

TELEGRAM

73

The Postal Telegraph-Cable Company transmits and delivers this message subject to the terms and conditions printed on the back of this blank.

Received at No. 3 Central Row, Hartford, Conn. (Where any reply should be sent).

16 B J Sm 14 paid

Boston Mass Oct 9 1901

President Samuel B. Capen
and Secy Dr. Judson Smith
A.B.C.F.M. Hartford Ct

Definite confidential information desired now frequently if entitled thereto under the circumstances

Chas A. Stone

FORM 16.

POSTAL TELEGRAPH-CABLE COMPANY.

This Company transmits and delivers the within message subject to the following

TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

o guard against mistakes or delays, the sender of a message should order it REPEATED; that is, telegraphed to the originating office for comparison. For this, one-half the regular rate is charged in addition. It is d between the sender of the message written on the face hereof and the Postal Telegraph-Cable Company said Company shall not be liable for mistakes or delays in the transmission or delivery, or for non-delivery, y UNREPEATED message, beyond the amount received for sending the same; nor for mistakes or delays in the mission or delivery, or for non-delivery, of any REPEATED message beyond fifty times the sum received for ng the same, unless specially insured, nor in any case for delays arising from unavoidable interruption in orking of its lines, or for errors in cipher or obscure messages. And this Company is hereby made the agent sender, without liability, to forward any message over the lines of any other Company when necessary to its destination.

rrectness in the transmission of messages to any point on the lines of the Company can be INSURED by ct in writing, stating agreed amount of risk, and payment of premium thereon, at the following rates, in on to the usual charge for repeated messages, viz: one per cent. for any distance not exceeding 1,000 miles, wo per cent. for any greater distance.

o responsibility regarding messages attaches to this Company until the same are presented and accepted at f its transmitting offices; and if a message is sent to such office by one of this Company's messengers, he or that purpose as the agent of the sender.

essages will be delivered free within the established free delivery limits of the terminal office. For delivery greater distance a special charge will be made to cover the cost of such delivery.

his Company will not be liable for damages or statutory penalties in any case where the claim is not pre- d in writing within sixty days after the message is filed with the company for transmission.

his is an UNREPEATED Message and is delivered by request of the sender under the conditions named above. s can be guarded against only by repeating a message back to the sending station for comparison.

o employee of this Company is authorized to vary the foregoing.

LLIAM H. BAKER,	JOHN O. STEVENS,	JOHN W. MACKAY
V. P. and Gen'l Manager.	Secretary.	President.

Mr. J. D. Hanes
Boston, Oct. 9-1911
Recd Oct. 9

FORM 17.

PRESS TELEGRAM.

POSTAL TELEGRAPH-CABLE COMPANY.

193

46

1151

MSG NO.	SHEET NO.	SENT BY.	REC'D BY.	CHECK
52	Dy	HP	Q	5-1 Pd goat rate

From Washington D.C. 10 Oct

To The Rev Judson Smith

Allyn House Hfd

For the time being I think contributions may take their course. neither discouraging nor pressing them, bankers may tell me what they have but need not remit unless I notify them will not do so unless Eddy should represent additional funds indispensible

adee

PRESS TELEGRAM.

POSTAL TELEGRAPH-CABLE COMPANY.

FORM 97.

NO.	SHEET NO.	SENT BY.	REC'D BY.	CHECK

NOTE.

Washington Oct. 10-1911

Recd Oct. 10

194

POSTAL TELEGRAPH-CABLE COMPANY IN CONNECTION WITH THE COMMERCIAL CABLE COMPANY.

16. P.

JOHN W. MACKAY, President.
J. O. STEVENS, Sec'y. WM. H. BAKER, V. P. & G. M.

JOHN W. MACKAY, President.
ALBERT BECK, Sec'y. GEO. G. WARD, V. P. & G. M.

Boom

TELEGRAM

3 09 PM

The Postal Telegraph-Cable Company transmits and delivers this message subject to the terms and conditions printed on the back of this blank.

Received at 15 Exchange Street, Portland, Me.

Oct 15 1901

11 Nb Jn 10 pd

Boston 15

Rev Dr Judson Smith:
Nat'l Congregational
Counsel Portland
Would not strongly sympathetic
action widely advertised aid popular
subscription

Charles A Stone

BRANCH OFFICES: FALMOUTH HOTEL, CONGRESS SQUARE HOTEL, WEST END HOTEL.

FORM 16.

POSTAL TELEGRAPH-CABLE COMPANY.

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'orrectness in the transmission of messages to any point on the lines of the Company can be INSURED by ract in writing, stating agreed amount of risk, and payment of premium thereon, at the following rates, in tion to the usual charge for repeated messages, viz: one per cent. for any distance not exceeding 1,000 miles, two per cent. for any greater distance.

'o responsibility regarding messages attaches to this Company until the same are presented and accepted at of its transmitting offices; and if a message is sent to such office by one of this Company's messengers, he for that purpose as the agent of the sender.

Iessages will be delivered free within the established free delivery limits of the terminal office. For delivery greater distance a special charge will be made to cover the cost of such delivery.

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No employee of this Company is authorized to vary the foregoing.

ILLIAM H. BAKER,	JOHN O. STEVENS,	JOHN W. MACKAY,
V. P. and Gen'l Manager.	Secretary	President.

Mr. C. A. Stone
Boston, Oct. 15. 1901
Filed Oct. 18.

THE INDIANAPOLIS JOURNAL. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1901.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Argument in Support of Their Uplifting and Civilizing Influence.

To the Editor of the Indianapolis Journal:

The conclusion reached a few days ago by the Journal that it would be unwise to pay a ransom for the return of Miss Stone, the abducted missionary, is correct, and the reasons given are satisfactory, but incidentally there are two or three thoughts expressed that are so misleading that I desire to correct them. First, the article assumes that such work as Miss Stone and her missionaries are doing is induced by "emotional zeal." The very reverse is the truth. Few if any who are moved by emotion take any part in the work of foreign missionaries as contributors, and none go as missionaries. The propelling force is a conviction that the command of the Master and the scope of the Christian religion require it. They see more in the command to go into all the world than an idle boast; to them it is a commission and a command to carry the gospel to all peoples, and they are impelled the more by the great success of such labors in the uplifting of those who accept the truth; and by its rapid spread. It is less than two thousand years since the son of Mary lived and taught in Judea and sent out a few unlettered and unambitious preachers, with only one commission, "Go preach," and already much more than half the peoples of earth are dominated by the essential truths these and their successors have preached, while Confucius began his work in eastern Asia nearly a thousand years before the Christ began His in western Asia under, humanly speaking, much less favorable conditions, and yet Confucianism has hardly spread beyond the place of its birth. It lays no claims to universality; there is in it no command to "go," and there is no motive for going. It dispenses no blessing upon its votaries at home; why, then, should they carry it to others? Whereas the impulse of Philip when he found the Master to go and tell Nathaniel is always and everywhere the impulse of every one who comes into personal touch with the Christ, and this impulse becomes a conviction, doing home work first, then come foreign missions.

Yes, there are heathens at home who need personally the benefits of the gospel, and there always will be while the scheme of the gospel is to save individuals first and then seek the masses, not to save the masses and then to reach the individual; and as long as the acceptance of the gospel's most desirable benefits is a matter of individual choice. It is not because these home heathens do not know better, but because they do not do better, that they are heathens in the midst of Christian light.

The suggestion that while the followers of Confucius and the worshipers of Brahma and contented with their religion it is impertinence to meddle with them wholly ignores the foundation claim of Christianity. It claims to be divine in its origin and to be world-wide in its mission, and Christians believe these claims well founded, and at the same time that there is laid upon every Christian the duty to "go preach," if not in person then by representatives, hence come foreign missions. Their first fields were cultured Greece and Rome, but long before the close of the first century, through foreign missions Christianity had begun its uplifting work among the nomadic Goths and Huns and Celts and other Aryan tribes in western Europe and the British islands, and the cultured Europe and England of to-day owe their superiority over eastern Asia and the islands of the Pacific to the superiority of the Christ over Confucius, and it is not an "emotional zeal," but a profound conviction that the duty laid upon the first Christian is duty yet, and that what followed in the earlier fields of Europe and the British islands will follow everywhere, which keeps the foreign missionary spirit alive in the church. It is less than two hundred years since the Sandwich islands were in the sole possession of cannibals. The missionary was the first to penetrate the darkness, commerce followed, and the Hawaii of to-day is far in advance of Britannia at the close of the first hundred and fifty years of Christian missionary work in the island and the adjacent continent.

The Journal correctly attributes the late invasion by the armies of Christian nations into the heart of China to the missionaries who had been for less than a hundred years preaching the Christ in China, and the historian who, a thousand years hence, shall write about almshouses, orphanages, homes for aged men and women, schools for the deaf and the blind, asylums for the insane and a common school system that provides the means of education for all, will date the beginning of the reformation which made all these Christian institutions possible with the entrance of Christian missionaries into China, and he will speak of the military invasion as only an incident in the uplift. None of these humane institutions is found except where the Christ is preached. It may seem intermeddling to thrust such institutions upon the social life of those who are content without them, but to do this is the command of the Master. What influence it may have upon the hereafter of the heathen need not enter into the discussion. Foreign missions will be multiplied, and the fate of Miss Stone and her comissionaries will not deter others from going into the same field.

Indianapolis, Oct. 22. U. L. SEE.

Of Oct. 24, 1901

filed Nov. 19.

Stone Case

Samokov Nov 7. 1901

Dear Dr. Barton: Enclosed please find a copy of the translation from Bulgarian of the last letter received Oct 25, 1901 from Miss Stone. The date is queer and should read Sep 25/8 Oct. The handwriting is undoubtedly Miss Stone's. With the possible exception of the night when the letter was brought and Dr. Haskell & I had an interview with the bearer who of course was in haste to get away there has been no chance to send her a syllable. We have not sent her a word because it was is impossible. As long as the brigands have a hope of getting a few thousand dollars without being caught they will not execute their threats. Where the captives are this cold weather we do not know. The telegram was sent by mail to Mr. Peet for if telegraphed it would not be kept secret. All well at present

Yours J H Baird

end -

Enclosing translation
from Miss Stoiselitte
Oct. 25, 1901.

Translation of Letter of Miss E. M. Stone addressed (on envelope) to Mr. Dr. H. C. Haskell, Samokov, Bulgaria

Macedonia Oct. 25/8.

Dr H. C. Haskell:-

My much esteemed friend:-

With great expectation I have awaited every day an answer to my letter to you, but up to the present I have no word at all so as to know, at least, what my friends have done.

Today is now the last day of the time set for the ransom, and the men in whose hands we have been already five weeks wish to fulfill their threat to destroy us:- but they have shown mercy to us in that they have added ten days more from today to our time limit and allow me to write this last letter.

I considered it best to write the telegram which sind you with this letter, for Mr Peet, and I will entreat of you, in addition, this favor, that you send it to him. I need not say that I shall await its answer with impatience for if at the end of this set time there is no answer or on the other hand if the answer is not satisfactory we are lost.

Remember us in your prayers, all of you, as we remember all our loved ones.

With regards, your coworker,

Ellen M. Stone.

N.Y. Eve. World sends by telephone this -

We have a special cable-gram from Vienna -

9.30 a.m. Nov. 20 '01 -

"Miss Stone & Madam Tsilka cut to pieces by brigands at (where they were captured - could not get just the name) & buried on the spot -"

(Rec'd by C. E. Smith)

79
62
651
85
736

Nov. 29. 1901

filed Dec. 3.

199

POSTAL TELEGRAPH-CABLE COMPANY IN CONNECTION WITH THE COMMERCIAL CABLE COMPANY.

16.

ALBERT B. CHANDLER, President.
J. O. STEVENS, Sec'y. WM. H. BAKER, V. P. & G. M.

JOHN W. MACKAY, President.
ALBERT BECK, Sec'y. GEO. G. WARD, V. P. & G. M.

TELEGRAM

The Postal Telegraph-Cable Company transmits and delivers this message subject to the terms and conditions printed on the back of this blank.

Received at

1440 COLUMBUS AVE., ROOM 16

(WHERE ANY REPLY SHOULD BE SENT.)

29 B kd xs 21 Paid Govt Rate,

Washington D C Nov 29 1901

Rev Justin Smith,

try 218 Walnut Ave

Boston Mass.

Rumor of Miss Stones death reported by Eddy but not confirmed.

Wm H Michael,

Cheif Clerk.

FORM 10.

POSTAL TELEGRAPH-CABLE COMPANY.

This Company transmits and delivers the within message subject to the following

TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

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Messages will be delivered free within the established free delivery limits of the terminal office. For delivery at a greater distance a special charge will be made to cover the cost of such delivery.

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No employee of this Company is authorized to vary the foregoing.

WILLIAM H. BAKER, V. P. and Gen'l Manager. JOHN O. STEVENS, Secretary. ALBERT B. CHANDLER, President.

DEC 23 1901

(Private + Confidential)

Result of search for Miss Stone in region Alandere

Man returned last night. Reports that eight of the band were with the captives when Mr. Marsh reached Ludjeni, (three of them even came to Ludjeni + Banya (Chepino) to get drinks) but on hearing that an American had arrived took the captives and fled to parts unknown. All the autumn they had been in that locality, latterly in a cave near a mill. A child was born to Mrs. Tsilka in the cellar of a pomak house just within the Bulg. border – the brother of a Mousala Toupeff (!) living in Turkish territory near by and now in jail at Raglos. The child was kept with its mother and Miss Stone in the cave after. We know the names & name of the "yatake." Our man believes that the women are alive tho' he heard that many would be glad if the captives were killed or died. It was reported that the band & capt. went towards Kustovo but that is doubted as it is improbable that they can secure food in those deserted huts.

I suppose Mr Marsh was in Ludjeni about Nov 15th new style. We may have more to report in a few days. At present we believe them not to have died at time (Nov 2) reported nor to have died of childbirth + grief. Supposed that many of the original band are at work as lumbermen in that region and that being honest men they supply those with the captives with bread.

Samokov Dec 11. 1901.

J. W. T. Baird

DEC 28 1901
204
DEC 28 1901

Samokov, Dec. 11th, 1901.

Sec. J. L. Barton D.D.

Dear Bro.,

Altho I wrote you at length on the 7th I will add a few words. We have had word from Salonica two or three times that both captives were dead. (Please excuse my "pitching in" at once on the subject which has so absorbed our minds & hearts since Sept. 6th, when we first heard of it.) And we are now in much doubt about it. But our man sent ten days ago to examine the whole section where their graves were said to be, returned last evening & gave us the word which Mr. Baird has given you in this. We think this shd be kept strictly private; as whatever gets out is devoured by the greedy Press, — & at once cabled to Sofia & gets to this Govt & to the brigands — The Govt. seems bound to prove (con. to fact) that the brigands were Turks — & we, we believe, burn

Samokov, Dec. 11, 1901

there captives on to Turkish soil (dead or alive) if they knew they were in Bulgaria. A man will follow this up & give us further information — perhaps in 5 — 10 or more days. We believe they were alive on the 25th Nov.. Whether they are now or not, — & where they are now, we don't know. Conflicting statements confuse us. Recently (very) I heard they were in a town 70 — 100 miles from the section spoken of by J. E. B.

Now that that great ransom (i.e. so much of it) has been raised I hope it will be paid for their deliverance. Shd. they be dead, I apprehend the robbers wd. take another American so as to get it.

Still we are told the band think they may be caught & robbed & murdered for their money after they get two or three hundred lbs. weight of gold. "God is our helper & our strength, a very present help in time of trouble". Yours in haste,

H. C. Haskell.

202
JAN 8 1902

Not for publication

Samokov Dec. 20, 1901.

Dear Dr Smith:-

Yours of Dec 5th was rec'd today. Tired worn with accounts that are refractory & can write but little.

Just now a former graduate of this school has come from Bansko with this news which we saw in a Bulg. paper but refused to believe.

A graduate of our G. B. S. (last year's class) was going from Djuma'a to Mehomia. Two guards who were taking her passed her over to a captain and 6-8 soldiers going ~~the~~ to Mehomia. On the way some of the soldiers held the muleteer when the captain took the young woman and violated her, very near the place of Miss Stone's capture. She with Rev. G. K Sedloeff complained to the government and accused the man but the judge passed the matter by as unworthy of notice. The young woman - who went from here to Mehomia to be the Prot. teacher - wrote to Salonica missionaries who I suppose will do all possible to bring the miscreant to justice tho' that may not be much. It would seem however to shut the mouths of the Turks who tried to excuse themselves because Miss Stone did not take a guard the day she was abducted.

So far Miss Stone's case is about as follows:-

1) The name of the Captain of the band not known certainly and few if any of the names of his men. The agents of the brigands are, thus at least, unknown.

2) Their whereabouts unknown. If we learn where they spent a night or more it is after they have left for parts unknown.

3) Little probability of their proposing to give her up before April as she by her presence shields them, - She is their guardian angel against 2 governments.

4) Brigands will I fear demand the $110,000 - and not abate any, so

if buying them off is to be the policy pursued her friends must find the $110,000 plus sums spent in search &c &c if they wish to succeed.

5) We hope Miss Stone is alive and that she will live till Spring, tho we are not certain yet that her reported death is untrue.

6) In a paper favorable to the brigands is an advertisement of a baby (boy) 1 month old, - somebody is sought to adopt it. Mr. Tsilka is afraid it is his baby taken from his wife - He would like to attempt to rescue the ladies by force but the action of Miss Stone's friends in America have made that impossible. They took the matter out of our hands & put it into the governments' with the request that no force endangering the captives be used. The brigs can now put their fingers to their noses and wiggle them at us.

7) Now that the case has been taken out of our hands the brigands will hardly approach us with any proposals for ransom. They know that we haven't the money.

8) If captives live till Apr. or May, if released, it will most probably be on Turkish soil - There are rumors of a rising in the coming summer so some atrocities are among the possibilities.

Yours - J. H. Baird.

Gam Oren, Dec. 20, 1901

203

Coll.

FEB 21 1902

Orig

Yenidjani

My Fenestelle Bosler

Stones Deliverance completed

inform My Friends,

Bel.

Sam Otter, Dec. 20, 1901

MAR 13 1902

reporting Miss Stone "free"
Received Feb. 24, 1902

204
APR 4 - 1902

Salonica, March 22, 1902.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D.

Dear Dr. Barton:-

I enclose in this a copy of my report on the Miss Stone case. This is the report I am sending to our Govt through our Minister Hon. John G. A. Leishman. I am hoping to be able to use the last part as a basis for an article sometime when I can get to it. It wants working up putting in a little more of the lights and shades. Mr. McClure offered me 100 £ for my story but at that time I made him no promise and I may never publish it for money but it was dramatic and at times exciting and wearing in the extreme. I tell you this that you may not at present allow anyone to see it except the officials at the rooms as I think I ought to be allowed to publish it myself if it is to be published. Would like your judgment; if you are pleased to give it; as to the judiciousness of publishing an article on the basis of what you see in the report.

With kind regards, I am as
ever Yours in the Service
J. Henry House

APR 4- 1902

FACTS WITH REFERENCE TO THE KIDNAPPING; CAPTIVITY AND RANSOM OF MISS E.M.STONE:

BY REV.J.H.HOUSE,SALONICA.

At 11½ o'clock P.M. Sept. 4th ,1901 I received from Rev.G.K.Sadloff, Protestant pastor of Menomia(Razlog,) a telegram which read as follows,when translated into English: "(Miss) Stone and Madame Tsilka on their way from Bansko to Djumaa at the place of the Rocks were carried off to the mountains." I went immediately to the house of Mr.P.H.Lazzaro,U.S.Consular Agent for Salonica and informed him of the sad fact. He,advising with me,arranged a telegram communicating the fact to Consul-General Dickinson.of Constantinople. Also wired the news to Mr.N.W.Peet,Mission Treasurer of the A.B.C.F.M. Constantinople.Returning home in the early morning I wrote letters to Boston, Constantinople,Samokov and Monastir. These letters were carried to the Railway train before six A.M. that there might be no delay in forwarding them. On the 5th telegrams were sent to Rooms of A.B.C.F.M., Boston,to Samokov,to Monastir and to Razlog. The last was sent to Rev.G.K.Sadloff asking him to send special messenger with details. From my knowledge of the plans of Miss Stone I conclude she must have been carried off on Sept.3rd soon after she left Bansko on her journey home to Salonica at the close of her Summer class for Bible readers and teachers. Then I met with Mr.Lazzaro on the night of the 4th it was arranged that he should call on the Governor-General of our province in the morning and urge upon him the necessity of restraining the troops from pursuit lest the ladies be killed. When he called he found the Vali (Governor-General,) still ignorant of the capture. The Vali blamed Miss Stone for not taking a guard.Here it ought to be said that for some years none of us have felt the need of taking a guard in travelling in any portion of this province,and there are many more dangerous roads than the one travelled by Miss Stone. A guard would have been of little value in the presence of a large band of brigands. About this same time I had received a report from Mr.Bond of Monastir that the post and a party of travellers accompanying it who were convoyed by five mounted police or soldiers was assailed and the guard killed and the travellers robbed. Miss Stone at the time of her capture was accompanied by some twelve or thirteen people,male and female. Such a company is always considered a safe guard in travelling.

On Sept.6th we learned from the Vali that the band was reported to be 30 or 40 strong.In consequence of the receipt from the Consulate-General in Constantinople of a telegram in the sense that the Vali should be instructed to order the troops to pursue and capture the brigands and release the captives, I telegraphed Mr.Peet on this date: See Consul.Important not to urge attack.

Note advice in letters.H.

On Sept. 7th a note was received from British Consul-General Sir Alfred Biliotti saying that he was about to call upon the Vali and asking if he could do anything for us. A subsequent note from Sir Alfred told me that the band, consisting of thirty, spoke very bad Turkish, and he added that he would present my view that the troops should not press the band.

As early as the 7th I wrote to Boston: "I have a suspicion-it is only a suspicion-that the band is a Bulgarian one, and that this is a political demonstration to show that Turkey is unsafe. Even in that case a ransom will probably be asked."

On Sept. 9th the first messenger, Mr. K. Petkanchen arrived bringing from Rev. Sedloeff a written account of the capture as he had gathered it from the lady teachers who had been with Miss Stone, and who in the meantime had returned to Razlog. The following is his report:-

"We have just received your telegram, and have come to Bansko to send you a man. What to say we do not know. On Tuesday, Sept. 3rd we sent them all off prosperously. Mr. G. Kondeff and I even accompanied them some distance above Menomia., to the Springs. On Wednesday the 4th a boy came from Menomia with the sad news that he had seen Mrs. Kusheva and the others before the government house in Menomia, and that Miss Stone and Mrs. Tsilka had been carried off by brigands. I was lamentably by this strange news, and even thought that the boy was joking. We asked him a second time whether it was true. I set out immediately for Razlog. (Menomia.) On the way between Bansko and Menomia I met the girls (teachers) all tired out and straggling along one by one. Sad picture! And sadder still that Miss Stone was not with them-she who had been their mother!

"The affair came about in this way: When they had reached a place an hour and a half or two hours beyond the "Predale" (heights) where there is a Turkish guard, near by the place called the "supported rock", a little above, men came out and surrounded them. Mr. Tsilka said that as he looked forward they looked like Albanians, but when he looked backward he saw Turkish soldiers (that is men who looked like Turkish soldiers.). After this the men collected them and drove them off up the mountain (Perim Mt.) for a distance of a half hour or more. There they searched them, and from some took money and from others their watches. When they were robbing the girls (teachers) some said "Leave them alone. And don't touch them.". After this they separated Miss Stone from the rest and led her to one side. After a little they called Mrs. Tsilka, and from that time these two disappeared. After this they took two of the horses from the Kiradjees and at about 5:30 or 6 P.M. they carried them off somewhere., God only knows where. They kept the others all night under guard, and did not even allow them to have their blankets to cover themselves. At dawn the guard disappeared, and left them to go where they wished..... They came back. At the

* We note that this report makes no mention of the killing of the Turks. Teachers say that in their examination before a certain Vali they were not asked about the Turks. To my mind this was unfortunately kept back from fear of the vengeance of the "Komitet". G.H.H.

"Prenale" the guard asked them why they returned, and they related what had happened. From there the Turkish guard led them to Menomia to report to the Government. They examined them there and sent them on to Bansko. The Government sent out soldiers with the averred object of finding the brigands. The men who carried off the ladies were clothed in various costumes. Some wore the uniform of the Turkish soldiers, others the Albanian costume, and others still had clothed themselves with great cloaks. Who knows of what nationality they were?.....Another thing, their guns were of the new system. Some say they were like those which the Turkish army carry. What is the object of this carrying off we do not know. The work was evidently done with some object,-but what? We have as yet no word from anywhere that they have been seen, or that they have sent any message that they want anything. We suppose that they wish money, nothing else.

I am sorry they have carried them off with only the clothes they have on. Nothing else have they taken. And the two are weak. But may God give them Christian grace and strength for their support." *

To this one other item, that so far as observed the brigands spoke only Turkish. About this time a telegram came from the Consul-General to Mr. Lazzaro that the U.S. Government could do nothing in the way of advancing money for ransom. This of course priorities the Consular agent here. He suggested to me the correct solution, that is that I accompany him to the vilayet to open as it possible negotiations with the band that we might negotiate for the ransoming of the captives. I could not go without superior orders, and not getting these the plan had to be dropped.

As early as Sept.11th I had expressed myself to Dr. Smith of Boston that the first news from the captives might go to Sanokov, which was eventually the case, though the brigands made an earlier attempt to open negotiations at Bansko, which for reasons unknown to us were unsuccessful.

On Sept.14th I sent telegrams to Razlog, Djumaa-Bala and Sanokov, asking that men be sent in search of the band that we might open negotiations with them. Several men were sent, but there were no results. On Sept.16th information came from the Vali that the governor of Djumaa-Bala had found two men who had been guides to the brigands, and that he was sending them out to find the band. What came of this I never learned. On Sept.17th we were informed that the authorities had removed all coal-burners and wood-cutters from the mountains, and had occupied the pass with soldiers. There were reports that the chief of the band was a noted Doncho, who shortly before Miss Stone's capture had left Dunitza with his band... Of his band two were said to be from Bansko, and two from Melnik. His band however was known to have been a small one, while this was large, &c.

I may anticipate here by saying that recent reports declare that this band of Doncho's was not the band that kidnapped Miss Stone, but an inimical one whom that band is now trying to exterminate as dangerous to their cause. About this

* We note that this report makes no mention of the killing of the Turk. The teachers assume that in their examination before authorities they were not asked about the Turk. To my mind this was unfortunately kept back from fear of the vengeance of the "Komitet". G.H.H.

time a fight by the Turkish troops with a brigand band was reported near Melnik in which four brigands were killed, but as no brigand prisoner was taken no clue could be obtained in that direction.

During these days large numbers were arrested in Djumaa-Bala and Razlog under suspicion of being accomplices of the brigands, and it is reported on what seems good authority that many were unmercifully beaten or otherwise tortured that they might thus be induced to confess their suspected crime. Most of these arrests seem to have been of innocent men. One however, Sava by name, was arrested, in whose house were found three fans and a Revolutionary Committee seal on which were the words " Liberty or Death", and some other indications of his being a member of that Committee. Whether he knew anything of Miss Stone's affair is unknown, but under torture he said that he did and reported the women to be concealed in the cellar of a certain man in "Kresna", a mountain village noted for its frauds, situated south of Djumaa-Bala on the river Strouma. He led the police to the place but no one was found in the cellar. It seems to me a fact that soon after they were taken, the captives were once hidden in a cellar.

On Sept. 25th I learned from one who was known to be connected with the Revolutionary Committee that a man was on his way to bring me a letter from the captives and open negotiations. The sum which he thought they would ask was 8000 liras. No man came to me, but on Sept. 28th news came from Sanskov that a letter from Miss Stone had reached Dr. H. D. Haskell in that city in which the ransom demanded by the band was stated to be 25000 liras. Here it should be stated that two letters had been sent some eleven days earlier (if I mistake not,) to Mr. Petkanchen of Sansko, one of which was for Mr. Peet. For reasons unknown these letters were delayed and the Sanskov letters were first received. This event immediately removed the center of interest in this affair from Salonica to Sanskov, and upon this period others will report.

Meanwhile the authorities in Razlog and Djumaa-Bala seem to have formed a theory that Miss Stone, the missionaries and the Protestants were all in the plot to carry off the ladies and were to have an interest. This theory seems to have been clung to by some with a serious tenacity. Following out this theory several Protestants were arrested and imprisoned for a time. The one kiradjee (muleteer,) of whom Mr. Tsilka had some doubt was allowed to escape to Bulgaria. He was afterwards arrested, examined and released by the Bulgarian Government. Another muleteer was arrested by Turkish authorities, beaten about the head so much that he had a black eye, and afterwards released on bail, but was unfaithful to his bondsman and (probably from fear of other beatings)fled the country. It is thought that he was innocent. A third muleteer, a boy of fifteen years, was imprisoned some month or more afterwards, and is I beleive, still in prison, though probably perfectly innocent of any collusion with brigands. He and Sava with two men from the village of Gradovo (near where they were taken,) are now

(if I mistake not,) in prison in Serres.

The four teachers who were with Miss Stone when she was captured have been examined and re-examined several times. Mrs. Tsilka has been examined several times since her release. Mr. Tsilka has been examined many times and is now being examined again here.

On Oct. 31st I obtained from Mr. Lazzaro the following list of names of the brigands reported by the Vali:-viz. Captain Yovan of Sofia, Yanny Zandansky, Christo of Kelkish, Stoil Prosniak of Gradevo (said to be 80 years old), Nicholo of Dubnitsa, Miter Trenkoff of Gradevo, Georgie Pope Svetoff and his brother, Oristo Obesnik, Simeon Vishanoff of Bansko, Nicholo Bovadji, Kostadin Daskal, Illy Beezoff, Kodno Banskoff, Simon ---, Gieôore from Haskovo, Milan ---, I cannot say that I place much confidence in this list.

On Nov. 27th we were very much troubled by the report that the captives were dead. This story was given to the Vali in so much detail and seemed to be so confirmed from Bulgaria that we were greatly alarmed. Their death was reported to have occurred at ~~one~~ a hill at Allandere. Comprehensible indeed was the fale that an expedition to search for the graves was considered. This false report is of course now only a matter of history in the sense, and although it gave us much alarm and caused much correspondence is passed by here with mere mention..

THE NEGOTIATIONS-

I now pass to the history of the negotiations which by God's blessing at last proved successful.

On Dec. 7th and 18th I received letters from Rev. A. N. Popoff of Sofia, Bulgaria, expressing the opinion that some one ought to go to Bansko to try to get into communication with the brigands from that place. I did not regard the suggestion at the time as likely to lead to results, but expressed my willingness to do all that I could if only we could be assured that there was good reason to believe that anything could be accomplished there. In a letter of Dec. 18th I made this statement to him:- "I think that some distinct word from those who hold the captives should first be given to Dr. Haskell of Sandkov or to you that they are willing to open negotiations in Djuma or Bansko just as soon as some one empowered to act is there." The letter of Mr. Popoff I enclosed to Consul-General Dickinson telling him that if he thought that one of us should go to Bansko or Djuma for negotiations and could empower us to do so giving us the limit to which we could go I thought we ought to do so.

On Dec. 17th Mr. Peet and Mr. Sarafilo arrived in Salonica, a committee empowered by the Legation to undertake negotiations for the release of the captives on Turkish territory. They took the members of Salonica Station partially into their confidence and we offerred to help them in any way we could. I reported to Mr.

Peet the above mentioned correspondence with Mr. Popoff. Through the kind offices of Sir Alfred Billietti they found a messenger who, they hoped, would get them into communication with the band. The history of this unsuccessful attempt will be given by Mr. Peet and Mr. Garguilo.

On Dec. 27th Messrs. Garguilo and Peet went to Serres to await news from the above mentioned messenger. I accompanied them to assist in any way that I could, but went on to Drama for the Sabbath, returning to them at Serres on Monday the 30

On Saturday Jan. 4th, 1902 my associate Rev. E. B. Haskell made a special journey to Serres to bring me an important letter from Consul-General Dickinson's intermediary at Sophia. The letter informed me that he had succeeded in getting another interview with the messenger of the brigands and had after much difficulty made a final bargain with them that the captives would be released on the payment of £4,500 liras ransom. He said that he did not succeed in arranging the other details which were left for me. He begged me to leave immediately for Ransko where the messenger of the brigands, who had, he said, already left, would meet me. There was some hesitation at first on the part of the committee to give up all hopes of their messenger and take up with this offer, lest it might not prove to be a bona-fide one. However as more than the appointed time for a definite proposition from him had elapsed and all seemed to point to this as the last real chance for ransoming the captives, it was finally decided to endeavor to meet the appointment in Ransko. So it was arranged that I should quietly leave Serres for Ransko without anyone's knowing my real mission, as secrecy seemed necessary to success. A cypher was arranged so that I could keep up communication with them. I left early on Monday morning, Jan. 6th and after continuous journeying for three days I arrived in Ransko on the evening of Jan. 8th. I took no guards for the first two days of my journey to avoid the observation as far as possible of the authorities. However for the most dangerous part of the journey between Kovrokop and Ransko I obtained two Turkish police as guards. I see now that I was providentially led to make my headquarters at a house in the upper part of the village. Here I gave myself up to my missionary work with diligence, so that with the exception of my confidential agent whom I had selected to help me no one knew of my special mission. Here I was compelled to wait a week. For reasons unknown to us the messenger did not start at the time when it was supposed he would. At any rate it was not until Jan. 16th that the brigands gave any sign. On this day in an unexpected way notice came to my agent that the man I expected would meet me the next evening at 10 or 11 P.M. The impatience of those who were awaiting word from me in Serres was indicated by a telegram on the 9th, and I hastened now to inform them of the promising situation.

The meeting which had thus been arranged took place at a little before midnight and probably lasted until nearly or quite 1:30 A.M. Instead however of one man, three fully armed and uniformed brigands were ushered into my presence, who not

only seemed rather formidable but made it known to me that I was in their power. Their uniform was of a coffee colored brown homespun, with white cloths stapped about their ankles and lower limbs and a sort of moccasin worn by villagers on their feet. They were men quite commanding in appearance and seemingly well-educated. They were armed with modern rifles and carried their knapsacks and heavy cloaks with them. The one who seemed to be leader, a straight-bearded, light-complexioned man presented me the following letters as his credentials:-

Authorization.

We give the present authorization to its bearer, a member of the band in whose hands we are held captive, on the basis of the one previously given him by us with the right to receive the ransom demanded for us, but with the added powers to treat the question of our ransom to its final conclusion. In virtue whereof we sign with our own hands:

(Signed) Ellen M. Stone.

Macedonia, Dec.17-4, 1901. Katerina Stepanova Tsilka.

This document was written in both English and Bulgarian.

Accompanying this was the letter of the intermediary of Mr. Dickinson in Sofia which was as follows:-

(Translation from Bulgarian.) Dec. 18/31, 1901

Mr. J.M.House:

As the authorized agent of Mr. Chas. Dickinson to treat with the Brigands for the ransoming and freeing of Miss Stone and Mrs. Tsilka, this present I certify to the following:

1. The agent on the part of the brigands with an authorization signed by Miss Stone and Mrs. Tsilka and I, the agent of Mr. Dickinson, have agreed that the captives shall be freed on the payment of the sum collected for this purpose, viz Fr.14,500. (fourteen thousand five hundred liras Turkish.)

2. As to exact place and manner of delivering the sum and freeing the captives you will agree with the person who will bring you this letter from me. He has this right.

3. In order that you may be assured that the captives are alive and well this my letter shall be put before Miss Stone and Mrs. Tsilka that they may write with their own hands on the other side of this paper; after which it may be given to you.

4. A copy of this letter I am sending you by post.

5. The money may be paid in Napoleons.

Mr. House receive my best wishes with my signature.

(Signed) D. Todoroff. [not the real name]

On the reverse occurs the following:-

Miss E. Stone:

Write out a few lines concerning things incidents or names which only you or Mr. House know. (Miss Stone inserts here in her own handwriting)

Mr. House:-

Respected brother and fellow laborer in the evangelical work in Macedonia:-

Last night in my dreams I was talking with Mrs. House and I asked her whether she remembered that less a few days eight months have passed from the time I gave your family a send-off to France. So, on this holy Sabbath this my letter is given by one of my captors just arrived from Sofia. Have Mr. Hotchkiss and wife arrived? So also our beloved ones who went to America last year. My heart is often with my fellow laborers in Salonica and other places in the province. We are very sad over the sufferings of Raina Georgieva, concerning which we have heard only the fact. May God bless his work, especially during this week of prayer. With heartfelt salutations

Your fellow laborer

(Signed) Allen W. Stone.

Saturday evening, Jan. 4th, 1908 Dec. 22nd, 1901 (O.S.) Milena G. Tsilka was born. Every thing was and is well with the child and the mother, through God's wonderful mercy. A. W. Stone (signed.)

To Mrs. Tsilka:-

Answer who your friend was in East Orange N. J. and who was the Directress of the hospital in which you were. ("The answer in Mr. Tsilka's handwriting.) Miss Sette Dull. The Directress of the hospital is Miss Anna Maxwell.

(Signed) Katarina Stefanova Tsilka.

I received also the following important letter from Miss Stone:-(Letter No 1)

(Translation from Bulgarian.) Macedonia, Jan 8th, *1908 Dec. 30, 1901.

Dr. J. H. House, American Mission, Salonica.

My dear respected fellow laborer in the evangelical work in Macedonia

Through the enclosed letter which I received this morning by the hand of one of our captors who had gone to Sofia to conclude the work of freeing us, we understand that still once more this work has been put off and now has been put into your hands. It has been very hard to us as to our captors that the time of our suffering has been thus prolonged. Now Mrs. Tsilka and I pray you from the depths of our hearts to do all that is possible to finish the work of our liberation with as little delay as possible. For 132 days we have been captives. Is not this enough? We recommend the bearer of this letter as one to whom we owe more than we can tell for the care through which we have been kept alive and well to this time in spite of continual and varied dangers. We recommend him to receive now the whole sum collected for our ransom, 14500£. We are ready to take all the risk that he and his comrades with whom we have lived for so long a time will faithfully fulfill all which shall be arranged

* This is evidently a mistake for Jan. 12.

between him and you as to the place and manner of freeing us, after that you ha have given him the money. We have heard that some have advised that the captives should first be given up and then the ransom for them be paid. Have yo you ever heard such a thing in a case like ours? We pray you not to waver at all here as to paying the lowered sum which our captors have at last agreed to receive only to shorten our sufferings. Then you will arrange easily the details as to the place and manner of our liberation. Eight days ago the little daughter of Mrs. Tsilka was found among us. In spite of all the sufferings and privations the mother and child progress in health, but you will understand that they must be placed in winter quarters an hour sooner before the winter cold increases. When Ellenche was only three days old we were compelled to travel all night with horses. Wonderful to tell with the execution of of sore pains for the mother, who was placed in a box, and a cold for the little one, there were no bad results. The Lord has kept us on every hand and we praise His name. I write this letter of my own accord without dictation from anyone. Receive heartfelt salutations from Mrs. Tsilka, Ellenche and me, and give them to Mrs. Louse, Charlie and Slaave: Also to all our friends.

Your fellow laborer,

(signed) Allen K. Stone.

After being assured by the letters they brought that the captives were well I told them that the amount of ransom had been entirely settled in Sofia, to which they gave an emphatic assent, saying that there was no more to be said about it. We then approached the other two points, When the ransom should be paid, and when and where the captives should be delivered. Before leaving Serres we had gone over in the Committee the various possible ways in which the money could be paid so that there might be a simultaneous payment of ransom and delivery of captives. These I had carefully got into solfarino and arranged under five heads. These I was permitted to read to them but they brushed them all away with a word, "impossible." The money must be paid in coin, full weight, unmarked, at a certain place in the mountains which I knew, and at least ten days before the deliverance of the captives. I could not move them an inch from these last terms, and they were last terms. They told me that if these were rejected they would immediately break off negotiations and go back to the original sum, £T25000. There was also one other point on which they insisted that gave me great concern: the money must be paid secretly, without the knowledge of the Turkish authorities. I deprecated the hard terms that they were putting upon us, the transportation of the money to such a distant and wild place with lawless men on every side greedy for spoil seem next to impossible. They finally agreed that the money might be brought to Bansko under guard but after that no Turk was to be found with it, and means

must be found to make the payment secret as to both time and place, and they even insisted that the Turkish authorities were not to know that it was paid.

I was fully convinced that we must either meet their demands or give up our mission and wait for a more favorable turn in this untoward affair. But how could we shut our ears and hearts to the pitiful appeal of the captives? I made up my mind that we must accept their terms however bitter and hard they were, but I was not empowered to accept such terms without again consulting the Committee, and I told them so. At this they were very angry, and felt that they had been tricked. [Here [illegible] by U.S. and U.C. left out by mistake J.W.M.] How could they make again the dangerous journey to meet us? I assured them that I would make all possible haste not sparing myself to return to them at the nearest possible date though it involved a long mountain journey to Dinnaa-Bala, and at last they consented to the delay. But they solemnly assured me this was absolutely the last delay they would tolerate.

The other points were spoken of at this meeting. * Then I told them of the great danger not only of losing our lives but also the money, if it were to be conveyed the distance indicated. After much parley, they consented at last to send to a point near the village a convoy of their own men to ensure its safe transport to the place of delivery. As to the place of the delivery of the captives they would give no definite reply until the captives, at the next meeting, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

however that they knew that the Turkish Government often made promises which [translation from Bulgarian] ~~they~~ it did not keep, and there was a possibility that ~~they~~ it would not keep this. This they must take into account. Supposing that all was going well at Djumaa, I arranged for the final meeting and payment of the ransom at the appointed place on the night of Jan. 25th, or if there should be any mishap to prevent it at that time, on the night of the 28th. It was arranged however that if it could not be accomplished on the 25th I was to let them know by sending out to them my agent. * [Here come in pp. 11b and 11c left out by mistake J.H.H.]

Afterwards a telegram from Peet indicated delay in Djumaa, and I found I could not expect the other members of the Committee with the money until Saturday. I still persevered in the hope that we should be able to carry out our arrangement with the brigands for Saturday night. Saturday morning came, and we were making arrangements for the descent on the sanitaria from Djumaa when I learned that a company of 100 soldiers had arrived in the village the night before, after a forced march of some 40 or 50 miles from Nevrokop, and that the village was surrounded with a cordon. A letter which I had sent out by special messenger to be posted in Razlog (four or five miles away,) had been stopped, and messenger imprisoned. In answer to my remonstrance I was told that it was "illegal", but the messenger was released to me. Nothing was accomplished with my letter. I was allowed to go to the Governor himself, but he refused. In the afternoon I was told that I succeeded in getting my letter, but my messenger spent a day and a night in prison. Saturday night was a time of great anxiety to me. I was anxious to reach the brigands who were bringing the ransom. I was accompanied by a gendarme who on near-ing Razlog was allowed me to go on. In the darkness we lost our way, and after scanning our eyes to see some sign of our expected guests and waiting until nearly dark returned to the village with the conviction that they had not been allowed to come to Razlog, but had been led by them to Bansko, the seat of the Governor of the district. In the night a note from Mr. Peet showed that I had been right in my surmises. In fact every obstacle seems to have been put in the way of Messrs. Barlulo and Peet to prevent their getting to Bansko at the time we had agreed upon. This evidently was the result of a conviction in the minds of the authorities that the Committee were not going to the border to pay over the ransom, as they seem to have supposed, but were really negotiating with the brigands in Turkey itself. It must have been a revelation to the Commander, who had posted that the brigands were in Bulgaria and a bird could not fly over the border, to find that we were intending to pay the ransom to the brigands within his lines.

I ~~was~~ in great distress that night. The cordon around the village and the vigilant patrol of the narrow streets within made me unwillingly come to the conclusion that I could not send out my agent that night for fear of his losing his life. But that meant the breaking of our arrangements with the brigands. and

Letter No. 3. Received at second conference with brigands.

[Translation from Bulgarian]

Macedonia, Jan. (Date torn off.)

Dear Dr. House:-

I thank you for the letter of the 17th, which I have just received. I am glad to hear of the good news from home and from your family; but on the other hand, I am very sad and even in terror over your words "I will endeavor to persuade the friends who hold the money to come to the proposals of the brigands". Have you not received the letter of D. Todoroff of Sofia, the representative of Consul Dickinson, and the letter which I sent with his signed by Mrs. Tsilka and me? Mr. Todoroff said that you were empowered to pay the agreed-upon sum, Fr.14500. Why then this delay? We waited every evening for the return of the last send to you for the lower sum that at least we were to be free. But in place of this we first felt still longer in great suffering and sufferers. Now our leaders have asked me to write "this last letter" to say to you if their propositions are not accepted and sent without delay, they will refuse to receive the lower sum, and will insist on the first sum of Fr.15000. They agreed to accept this sum only out of sympathy with Mrs. Tsilka and me, because we are ill, and in a special express letter in this our captivity. As our friends have promised, if we sometimes [illegible], our suffering [illegible] days longer. For God's love, Dr. House, I pray you to believe all that I have told you in my previous letters. As God is merciful, we love in those who come to you on the part of our friends. We assure you, in the sincerest way, of the their honor, after having known them intimately from the first day of our captivity. Act then, as you would if your sister or daughter were in our place. Have mercy on the unfortunate child, which during the first seventeen days of its life has been compelled to journey three times in extreme danger to itself and its mother. Have mercy also on me if possible. Pray God pity with the men who hold us. We wonder at their patience up to this point in the question. WE know that it is only through the grace of God that they have had mercy on us.

(Then comes letter of Mrs. Tsilka to me. J.H.H.)

" Who are these people who dare to be the cause of the lengthening out of our sufferings? They are either people without human sympathy with the helpless, or they haven't any Christian love in their hearts. I would like to have them have only one month of our now almost five months of sufferings. Cannot they sympathise with my little daughter who is in constant suffering. Our eyes are swollen with smoke which is continually like a cloud in the room and I can scarcely talk from the smoke in the room. It is not a room, but a hole: imagine my sufferings as I see my little one suffer! The people who hold the money will wait it seems till we are dead. Oh, Dr. House, I pray you, act quickly. With a heart filled with sorrow,

Katarina Stepharova Tsilka

*

(11c)

(Again Miss Stone continues.)

No one has a right to hold back the money that has been given so long ago by our beloved ones and others who sympathize with us. Our captors are at last out of patience with these many repeated negotiations, and they enjoin upon me to write you not to expect another letter from us if you do not now finish the work of obtaining our freedom.

With loving salutations to your family and to all friends in Salonica and elsewhere,

Your friend and fellow laborer, [signed] Ellen M. Stone

Believe me, Dr. House, that voluntarily and most heartily, we recommend to you those sent from us as worthy of full confidence.

E. M. S.

Mr. Garguilo with the money in the afternoon.

the possible loss of all we had accomplished.

The morning early before light and without a guard I went to Razlog to consult with Messrs. Gargiulo and Peet. I found them also in trouble. They were still having courtesies with the authorities as to the conditions on which they were to be allowed to carry out our mission. I remained there that day but meanwhile arranged for my man to go back to Bansko and make an attempt to get out and see the brigands that all might not be lost. I had instructed him to see them to make a new appointment, and if possible one that could be more easily carried out. It was rather late Monday morning when my man made his appearance, and then only to report failure. He had indeed found the brigands but they were very angry at our supposed breach of faith. They complained that we were trying to entrap them, they were surrounded by traitors, and suffering from cold (which subsequently had been very severe.) and asked us to take the money here; they were tired waiting with disgust. He might take the money back to their hiding-place or to Serres and there wait for them to find some opportunity to secretly give it. He offered to take another appointment for the night of the 28th, but they would not promise. We were nearly in despair, and almost I certainly did not expect the next morning for Serres.

[illegible] the Vali [illegible] D [illegible] to Razlog [illegible] for [illegible] the chief of the brigands [illegible] only, but still we [illegible] every [illegible] after [illegible] of Serres.

This evening while we were in Serres and before I had been able to find a horse for my journey to the Vali, a courier arrived at Razlog from Sofia. He said that the Sultan had let the civil and military authorities know the orders of our Committee and signs were favorable. We left to come to Razlog the next morning. I went and found that while the Vali had been taken with this news had thrown consternation into the ranks of the authorities, still they pleaded that they could do nothing as their orders had not yet arrived, nor did they arrive until after something like a day later. While this news of the irade of the Sultan had relieved a little the tremendous strain that was upon us yet we could not but think withal that it had come too late. However it encouraged us to feel that it was not best to hurry away from here but to wait about until our failure to find the brigands had convinced us that there was no more hope here. We would try again to find them, and though there seemed to be scarcely a ray of hope, I returned to Bansko and sent out my man again that night but he found nothing. The weather had turned cold and everything had seemed against us.

We had a little more hope for Wednesday night the 28th, as it was the night my man had suggested for a meeting. Mr. Peet came over to Bansko in morning, and Mr. Gargiulo with the money in the afternoon.

Mr. Gargiulo ~~with~~ and Mr. Peet with the commander and his adjutant were quartered in the Protestant parsonage near the center of the village and some distance from me who had if possible to keep open our communications with the men of the mountains. We were doomed to disappointment again Wednesday night, and little hope seemed left, but we decided to stay on till Friday or Saturday. On Thursday evening at about 9 o'clock the khans where the convoy of the money was quartered were burned and the rising flames threw added a gloom on our prospects. The burning was caused by the overheating of a flue by the big fire which the soldiers kindled, but there were dark whispers that it was the work of the "Komitet", as the revolutionary committee is called. Later in the night my man returned from his search happy with success. He had found them and arranged for a meeting on the 31st. This was indeed joyful news. This meeting was successfully accomplished. Here all that the prisoners was finally successfully did was accomplished in this respect. The rest of the story is known. Gold was exchanged for them by the Committee, who at present themselves. But the Committee stood in the determination, and all inquiries of what had happened might be called to account for this by the authorities, and either are punishment of their crime. On the morning of the 2nd of Sept. Messrs. Gargiulo and Peet with the money left and this left for Tarsus. I however remained until the 6th of Sept. when the 10th for Tarsus, arrival at which only a few minutes after Peet. Later I learned that the Committee had been disbanded, the Turkish authorities having taken over the Vilayet, Kaza, Nahiye, Mudir, Kaymakam, Mutasarrif, Vali

on the part of the brigands. Drastic measures were proposed which, it seemed to the Committee, could only result in death to the captives. Fortunately, however, after consultation with the Committee these measures were postponed until at last we received word from the brigands that the reason for their delay was the activity of the troops and the necessary changing of their plan. We had now only to fear the danger of even at the very last an encounter with the troops which might be fatal to the captives even on the day on which their activity was over. We were however spared this and have in fact to be sincerely thankful for the kindly reception given the ladies by the authorities when on the morning of the 23rd of Feb. they were left near the village of Petrosnortsy, and afterwards when they entered the city of Stroumitza.

It only remains now to review in the briefest way the assurances which Committee gave-t

1. [illegible] the brigands as part of the settlement of the final affair.

2. [illegible] the [illegible] of the [illegible] of the [illegible]. This was, it is a day [illegible] said, [illegible] of [illegible] in the vicinity. In the same [illegible], the town in which the negotiations took place, was not to suffer in this account.

3. [illegible] them [illegible] to [illegible] action [illegible] the Turkish authorities [illegible] the [illegible] the brigands, S.F. [illegible] they have [illegible] them [illegible] their captives. They [illegible] that there no [illegible] should be [illegible]: or at least no [illegible] of the part of our Government [illegible] the Turkish authorities [illegible], [illegible] such [illegible].

5. They demanded that our Government take the same efforts to protect Mrs. Tsilka that it did to protect Miss Stone, i.e., to save her from the petty persecutions which are so common under the Turkish government of annoying witnesses by multitudinous examinations, and thus dragging them from one court to another to the great injury of their personal liberty and work.

Of course, in this case the Committee explained to them that it was impossible for our Government to protect a Turkish subject as it would its own, but the promise was made to do what could be done for Mrs. Tsilka.

4. The Committee's word of honor has been given to my agents, Mr. Kostadin Petkanchin and Mr. Ivan Bratchanoff, without whose faithful efforts our work would have been simply impossible, that they shall not suffer punishment from Turkish authorities for the help they have rendered us.

Of course, as the Committee was empowered to act by the U.S. Legation, its promises will be considered promises of our Government, and the brigands threat-

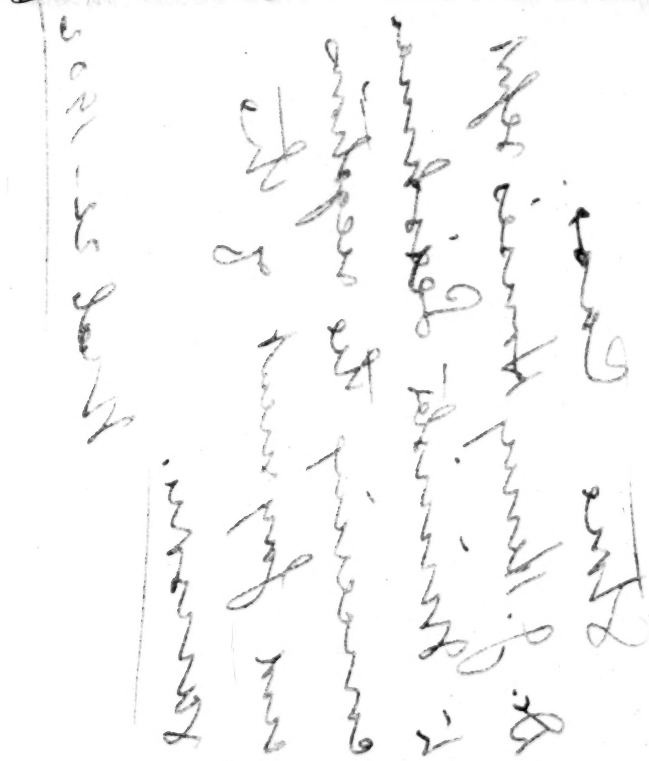
and vengeance on American citizens residing in Turkey, wherever found, if the agreements were not kept. And they remarked that they had connections everywhere, even in Salonica and Constantinople.

Finally: The writer hopes that it will not be considered improper for him to add one suggestion of his own in view of his long acquaintance with the people. He feels strongly that any attempt to punish Bulgaria by setting the Turkish Government against the province ~~the~~ would be most unfortunate. It is hoped that if the Bulgarian Government is found responsiblein any way, our Government will deal directly with that Principality as far as exacting redress is concerned.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Henry House.

Salonica, March 30th, 1903.



Stone Case.

Dr. J. Henry Houses report & Minister Leishman concerning the negotiations and payment of the ransom.

Mch 22 - 1902

APR 12 1902

Consulate General
of the
United States of America,
Constantinople.

Personal

March 25th. 1902.

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.,

Congregational House,

I4 Beacon St. - Boston.

Dear Dr. Barton,

I want to express to you my warm appreciation of your generous letter of February 25th. No favorable opinion can be more grateful to me than that of the American Board and their missionary workers in this field. The cordial way in which these workers supported me through all the trying weeks of effort to reach Miss Stone, of negotiation with the brigands, of running down rumors and following clues; the cheerfulness with which they responded to every demand upon them both day and night - these are things to be felt and remembered, but not to be described. It was as you know a long tedious struggle against abhorrent forces and in the midst of hostile political and church influence and my impression is we should have failed if it had not been for the warm-hearted support of our Missionary friends, especially those in Bulgaria.

Of course I do not mean to imply any lack of appreciation of the very valuable service rendered by Dr. House and Mr. Peet in the payment of the ransom. What might seem a simple matter was rendered very difficult. The brigand with whom we had made our agreement in writing at Sofia for Ltq.I4500 obtained the fullest en - (dorsement

dorsement on it by Miss Stone and called upon Dr. House at Bansko January I7 prepared to arrange terms of exchange, and yet the ransom was not paid until February 2d. mainly because of the interference of Turkish troops in violation of the solemn pledge of the Porte.

Nor should the influence of Miss Stone be overlooked in preventing the possible failure of a settlement. She was in a large sense her own liberator.

She took the risk of paying in advance and carried with her Dr. House, Mr. Peet, Dr. Washburn and Dr. Herrick, a risk they would hardly have taken but for her earnest request. We had a secret understanding at Sofia which could not be put in a writing others were to see, that payment and exchange should take place at the same time near Serres, but with this was coupled the condition that the Turkish troops should not follow the captives to the place of rendezvous or the brigands after payment of ransom. This condition failing our understanding could not be carried out. To provide against this failure I planned to pay the ransom in Bulgaria if necessary and to this end, a clause permitting payment in Napoleons was put in the contract, but Mr. Leishman returned at this juncture and seemed confident he could prevent the movement of Turkish troops.

I note your request for information. I suppose our friends in Bulgaria have advised you of some of the political and religious features of the case. These I hardly feel at liberty to discuss, as they may be involved in the diplomatic treatment of the case hereafter, but now that the captives are free and the silence necessary

to the successful conduct of negotiations is no longer imperative, I do not see why your Board which raised the ransom and is vitally interested in the case in all its phases, should not have access to all facts for its guidance which will aid it in taking steps or urging measures for the protection of its work and workers in this disturbed and benighted part of the earth. I shall at any time be glad to give you information upon any specific point you may suggest unless it involves questions likely to call for diplomatic treatment hereafter.

That the conspiracy which resulted in the abduction of Miss Stone was a far-reaching one there can be no doubt. The brigands seemed to have confederates everywhere. There was also clearly an inner circle in the band. With all our efforts to reach Miss Stone both from Bulgaria and Turkey - only one man and he the one with whom I negotiated and with whom the final agreement with my confidential agent was made - was able to bring and carry a letter from and to Miss Stone. Brigands or pretended brigands would appear, but they could not reach the captives. There was no bungling on the part of the leaders - no lack of rigid discipline. There was a dogged determination to have 25000 liras and the American newspapers made them believe that they would get it. They had to be convinced to the contrary and in this argument time was an essential element. They complained bitterly to Miss Stone of my cold-hearted indifference. If I had disclosed my almost feverish anxiety and solicitude it

would certainly have prolonged her captivity.

Now that Miss Stone is safe, I am about to go to my home on a leave of absence and shall try to get rid of the visions of nightmare which have for months been tramping through my brain. If you are to be in New-York in May or June it would give me pleasure to meet and talk with you in regard to some of the features of this case.

In advance of this, however, I beg to offer one or two suggestio with the hope of influencing representations your Board may contemplate making to the Department of State. I have already advised the Department not to attempt the prosecution of the brigands in Bulgaria. While I should not flinch from any service demanded I do not want to be identified with a hopeless attack. The Macedonia Committee being at the bottom of this outrage , no witness would da to testify in Bulgaria and no jury would dare to convict. Failure would impair our prestige and not increase the safety of our citizens now residing there. If Turkey or other powers should bring pressure enough on Bulgaria to make her arrest the brigands and their confederates and surrender them to Turkey for trial, they could be punished, but I doubt if this can be done. Bulgaria and Roumania nearly went to war over this question and after all Sarafof was tried in Sofia and promptly acquitted and given a popular ovatio

The conditions in Bulgaria and Macedonia are complex and difficult of solution. They all tend to make brigandage easy and safe. I can see only one effective remedy. If Turkey or Bulgaria or both

will pay the ransoms demanded and then collect them from the villages along the frontier, they will make brigandage unpopular and cut off the supplies of the brigand bands. There is not a frontier village which is not in more or less open sympathy with these desperadoes masquerading under the guise of "patriotism", which was never more fully "the last refuge of a scoundrel". If the aiders and abettors of these "patriots" were compelled to pay the ransoms they extort it would be impossible for them to obtain supplies or escape detection. Every tax-payer would become an informer and the pretence of "patriotism", collecting ransoms which must be paid at last by the people for whom this "patriotic" movement is carried on, would be promptly apparent.

With cordial regards,

Very sincerely yours,

Chas. M. Dickinson

Chas. M. Dickinson,
Constantinople,
Mch. 25. 02

Stone Case.

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Office of W. W. Peet. Treasurer of American Missions in Turkey.
5. American Bible House. Findjandjeler Youcoushu.
Constantinople.

APR 22 1902

Copy

March 27th. 1902.

Hon John G. A. Leishman.
Minister of the U.S.A.
Pera.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your request for a report of the facts in my possession in regard to the capture and captivity of Miss Stone as well as the facts and circumstances in connection with the negotiations for her surrender and the payment of the ransom for her release, allow me to hand you the following:-

My mission to Macedonia brought to me nothing new in regard to the capture and captivity of Miss Stone. Others have investigated this part of the incident more fully than I and will, doubtless, give you all there is of value on this department of the subject.

In December last I was asked by Mr. Foss to join Mr. Gargulo in an attempt to reach the captors of Miss Stone from Turkish territory and endeavor to obtain her release.

For the accomplishment of this end I was assured that the whole sum collected by the friends of Miss Stone, stated to be $66,000 would be at our disposal for payment against her delivery when the circumstances of the case should indicate that her release could be effected by the use of it.

Mr. Gargulo and myself left Constantinople for Salonica to enter upon this work the evening of December 16th and arrived at Salonica the following day. Several days following our arrival at Salonica were given to the investigation of the reports then current, to the effect that the ladies had been murdered by their captors.

Although we found it impossible to obtain satisfactory evidence as to the condition of the ladies at that time we soon became

satisfied

satisfied that the reports referred to of the death and burial of the ladies at Elle Dere near the Bulgarian frontier in November did not rest on any reliable testimony.

At Salonica we made an attempt to get into communication with the captors of Miss Stone through a messenger - a Bulgarian well vouched for and represented to be a relation of one of the leaders of the band. On seeing this man he professed to have recent reliable information that the captives were alive and in good health and of his ability to bring us some tangible evidence of this fact.

We suggested a letter written by Miss Stone on paper furnished and marked by us. He undertook to secure such a letter and to arrange in addition for a conference with the brigands when we might agree upon the conditions for the payment of the ransom and the delivery of the women. This conference he thought would be likely to take place in Servia. He left Salonica on the 23rd of December.

Although this man wholly failed to complete the work he set out to accomplish there seems to be evidence that he reached some of the leading men connected with the affair. My opinion is that his brigand friends did not belong to the branch of the organization holding Miss Stone in captivity, and that when he reached them he found it, for some reason, impossible to get into communication with those who alone were able to deliver the captives. An opportunity having presented itself for reaching by letter a party in Sofia having relations with the brigands supposed there to be Miss Stone's captors, I wrote on December 26, requesting that it might be given out that we would like to negotiate in a friendly way for Miss Stone's release on the basis of paying for her ransom all the money collected.

Immediately on my arrival at Salonica I went to the residence of Rev. Dr. House, where I remained during my stay in Salonica. Dr. House was at once informed of our mission and was freely consulted about all our plans and his help and company secured for our future work.

On the 27th of December, finding that our presence in Salonica was attracting a considerable degree of attention, we (Mr. Garguilo, Dr. House and myself) left Salonica with the intention of making Serres our head quarters for a time and to complete our preparations for our intended journey to Djuma Bala. Dr. House went on to Drama for a visit to one of his congregations joining us again at Serres on the 30th.

A

A few days later it became evident that Dr.House was concerned in some plan begun in Sofia a short time previous and on the 3rd January, Dr.House made us aware of an agreement that had been entered into by a party in Sofia acting as Mr.Dickinson's agent and one representing the brigands (whose name did not appear in the document). This agreement simply fixed the ransom price at £t14,500 leaving all other matters to be decided in conference with the brigands, and appointed a meeting place. This agreement seemed to be sent to Dr-House in connection with correspondence from Mr.Dickinson, a part of this correspondence Dr.House showed to me.

As the document provided for a meeting with Dr.House and the agent of the brigands alone, it was arranged, when we had satisfied ourselves that the agreement sent to Dr.House did not in any way conflict with other steps we had taken in the case, that Dr.House should go on at once, to the meeting place named in the document and there meet the agent and arrange for a subsequent meeting when the entire committee might be present and arrange, if possible, for the payment and the delivery of the captives.

Dr.House left Serres on the 8th January, arranging by a code prepared for the purpose, to notify us of his arrival and progress made. It was understood that we would after a few days, proceed to Djuma Bala and there await Dr. House's notice of the success that might attend his interview.

Further investigations into the subject begun in the government bureaus at Salonica, and correspondence with the legation detained us at Serres till the 14th January. Dr.House in the meantime gave no intination of any contract with the brigands in pursuance of the Sofia agreement.

On January 14th Mr.Garguilo and myself set out for Djuma Bala which place we reached on the evening of the 16th.

In the night of the 17th January, Dr.House had his first interview with the brigands (three men) when a letter from Miss Stone, dated January 8 December 30, was delivered and a copy of the Sofia agreement was shown, with additions to it in the handwriting of Miss Stone and Mrs Tsilka.

Dr.House found it impossible to make any impression upon the brigands, he simply heard and noted down what they had to say, which was of the nature of an ultimatum. The brigands expressed a willingness to meet the full committee for a final settlement.

Dr.House came to Djuma Bala, reported his interview and informed us in regard to the demands and conditions named by the brigands, and the agreed

date

date set for the further meeting.

In her letter, Miss Stone implored us not to hesitate to pay the money in advance of the delivery, assuring us that the brigands, with whom we had to deal were trustworthy and might be depended upon to keep faithfully any engagement made with regard to setting the captives free, even should the money be paid before they had their freedom. Miss Stone in urging us not to hesitate to make the payment in advance of the delivery took upon herself the responsibility for the fulfilment of the pledges the brigands might make.

The Committee decided, in view of these communications that we would not hesitate in any particular nor shrink before any danger connected with the task of freeing these women.

The authorities apparently were doing all in their power for us until we left Serres. From that time onward it was apparent that while they wished to keep up the appearance of helping us they had determined to keep us closely in sight and if possible compel us thereby to discover to them any brigands with whom we might meet. On the arrival of the money a great change was noticable, evidently they were acting under superior orders, conditions were now imposed and demands made for a settled programme to govern our action. Troops were increased in our immediate neighborhood and the place to which we had intended to go was surrounded by a superior force, all approaches to it were blocked, a cordon of troops put about the town and the house we were to occupy put under close watch.

The officers in command admitted that it was their intention to catch and kill any brigands that might be found and it was evident that they had determined that the presence of the negotiators with them, would not be an obstacle to the carrying out of this intent. Your telegram giving the terms of the Iredeh issued by the Sultan which put both the troops and their commanders under the direction of the committee so far as their movements related to this case was the turning point in an apparently hopeless and impossible case.

Although the watch on our movements was still closely kept, and a strong guard followed us, and the military commander from Djuma Bala with the Aide de camp of Ibrahim Pasha, the Division Commander at Serres were our constant companions occupying the same lodgings with us. The prohibition to do our work had been in a measure withdrawn and it was admitted that no

conditions

conditions made before would be binding.

Mr.Gargiulo and myself left Djuma Bala, with the bags delivered to us by Mr.Lemmi,on the morning after his arrival,and some days later we were joined by Dr.House.

The movements of the troops had disarranged our plans and appointments and another interview and other negotiations had to be resorted to.

The gold was paid to the brigands in the presence of the full committee,no other European being present or even aware that the interview was taking place. At the time of the payment we were in the presence of four men (armed) we were told that more were waiting a few steps away,but were not seen by us.

The language spoken during the interview was Bulgarian. Dr.House acting as interpreter. One of the number,however,spoke a few words in Turkish and when I counted out the money,the one who received it,counted also in Turkish.

The danger of surprise seemed to be continually before the brigands during the interview.

We were closely watched by armed men,but a sharp lookout was continually maintained. The proximity of the troops and the fact that the meeting was not known to them or the officers increased the likelihood of surprise and the danger of detection.

On the 4th February we arrived at Drama where we met Mr.Lemmi with the Cavasses from the Bank to whom we delivered the satchels that had played so conspicuous a part in our journeyings through the country.

Mr.Gargiulo and myself then went to Serres as per arrangements with the brigands to await the final act. Dr.House subsequently joined us at Serres.

The delivery was delayed far beyond the term agreed upon,much to our discomfort,due no doubt,to the unusual activity of the commander in Serres in sending troops to most of the villages in that vicinity in order to apprehend any of our brigands acquaintances that might appear in the vicinity. In spite of our repeated protests,this search throughout the vicinity of Serres continued.

On the thirteenth (February) after conferring with you by telegraph,I left Serres for Constantinople where I arrived on the 17th inst.by steamer from Salonica.

It will be readily understood that in conducting these negotiations and in making the payment we were obliged to divest our movements of all hostile characteristics and therefore took no steps to gather facts about the

the parties with whom we had these dealings. We simply required to know our negotiators came from Miss Stone with full power to treat, and that the credentials they brought from the captives were genuine and of recent date.

Many of the particulars in regard to the negotiations and the payment of the ransom are facts which we feel in honor bound to treat as confidential. For the same reason we are obliged to conceal the names of some parties with whom we had dealings and from whom we received valuable information that contributed to the success of our Mission.

Trusting that this may be of some service in your further prosecution of the case,

I am,

Yours faithfully,

W. W. Peet

Official Letter to Minister
Leishman

Constantinople Mch 27, 1902

Stone Case.

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Office of W. W. Peet, Treasurer of American Missions in Turkey.
5. American Bible House, Findjandjeler Youcoushu,
Constantinople.

APR 22 1902

March 28th. 1902.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D.

Boston.

Dear Dr. Barton,

I have returned from Macedonia where I was detained far beyond my expectations about Miss Stone's release from captivity. I found your letter and several from Dr. Smith, awaiting me on getting home.

First let me express my gratitude for your successful tour and safe return to your post and my thanks for your kind and helpful words in regard to my work in Miss Stone's behalf. Had I realized beforehand how much time would be consumed in this affair I think I should have hesitated about undertaking to enter upon it at this busy season.

It is now fitting that I tell you the circumstances under which I undertook to become a member of the party. It was, I think, in pursuance of my own suggestion that the mission was organized. You know, I think, that I felt at first quite unwilling to respond to the large demand made by the brigands and would have first negotiated with them for the lowest possible sum before making public our needs. But the case was taken out of our hands and a sum of money raised before we had a chance to be heard. This sum was raised with the greatest publicity so that the friends of the brigands had as full information of the amount raised as we. Under these circumstances it was idle to attempt to bargain with the brigands and much time was lost in fruitless negotiations. Knowing the sum at hand, they of course demanded the whole of it and resented any attempt to diminish it.

Quite to my surprise, I ascertained early in December that Mr. Dickenson, in his negotiations with the brigands in Sofia had never made them a full and unqualified offer of all the money raised for Miss Stone's ransom. He certainly gave us the impression on his return from Sofia that his offers had been carried as high as the money in hand.

As

As time went on several points became clearly defined as essential to any hopeful approach to the liberation of Miss Stone-all of which had been overlooked in the negotiations thus far.

First, An offer of the full sum known by the brigands to have been raised, and consequently an abandonment of the "bargaining" methods with regard to the amount of the ransom, that hitherto had been characteristic of the approaches to them,-this ~~and~~ under other circumstances would have been the right course-now in consequence of the publicity that had attended the raising of the money it was only a waste of time and opportunity. The brigands still held firmly to £t25,000 but it was thought that a frank offer of all we had raised might not be refused.

Second, The mission of Mr.Dickenson to Sofia had resulted in convincing the Bulgarian Government that our intention was to fasten, by means of taking in Bulgaria all the steps about Miss Stone's release, the full responsibility for the crime and its consequence upon them and this led them to oppose, if possible, the consummation of any steps in the release, especially did they let it be known that the payment of the money for Miss Stone's ransom and her delivery to her friends would not be permitted on Bulgarian soil. The utmost pains were taken to give publicity to the report that the captives, not only were not in Bulgaria, but had not been in the Principality. The work of rescue then to be successfully concluded needed to be undertaken elsewhere than in Bulgaria.

Third. Not only was it needful to meet the brigands with the full sum in hand, and in some place outside of Bulgaria, but also to meet them in a friendly attitude. It was known by the brigands that former negotiations and the circumstances of these negotiations, had been reported to the government. This made, in their view, the negotiator an enemy; such a person could not hope for ~~such~~ success. A new attempt by new hands seemed therefore to be called for, and this led me to suggest to Mr.Eddy, then acting as Charge d'Affaires, in the absence of Mr.Leishman, the appointment of Mr.Gargiulo who for upwards of thirty years had been one of the most successful dragoman in Constantinople, to undertake to find the solution of this question, that had now become a sort of international puzzle, on the basis of approaching it from Turkish Territory, in a friendly attitude, and with the offer of all the money in hand.

Mr.Gargiulo offered to undertake the work on condition that I should

accompany

accompany him, and this, after consultation with the friends at the Bible House, I agreed to do.

Mr. Eddy then laid the plan before Consul General Dickenson and gained his approval and assent to it. Dr. Washburn had just returned from Sofia, whither he had gone to study the case. He fully sustained the plan proposed as the most hopeful way of reaching a solution of the probelm presented by the case.

During the few days of preparation that followed, Mr. Gargiulo fell seriously ill and for a time the mission seemed fated to end with the appointment of the Committee. As it was, he set out in defiance of his physician's orders, actually leaving his bed to join me and on December 17th, at 8 P.M. we left Constantinople by railway for Salonica where we arrived at 9 P.M. on the following day.

At Salonica we were joined by Dr. House whose knowledge of the country, the people and Bulgarian language, were of greatest value in the work of the Committee. He was with us when we left Salonica for Serres and became by appointment from the Legation, later on, a member of our Committee.

When the Committee reached the field (Salonica) the report of the death and burial of the captives was persistently circulated and was accepted by the Turkish officials generally as probably the truth as to their fate. This report was fortified by a great array of testimony taken by the "public prosecutor" from several persons arrested on the border between Bulgaria and Turkey near to the place where the captives were said to be confined. This testimony was apparently of the most convincing kind, the deponents affirming that they had not only seen the ladies for several days prior to their murder, but had witnessed the burial of the American woman with Mrs Tsilka and her babe and were able to point out the place where the bodies were buried. The case seemed clear and direct. A number of weeks had passed away since the last bit of evidence had been received showing that the ladies were living. There seemed to be no way except to go to the mountain valley indicated and there ascertain what evidence could be found to prove the truth of this report. It was later ascertained that the parties whose depositions had been shown us, had been arrested by the local police as supposed smugglers of tobacco. In their despair of getting free from the clutch of the police and in order to escape from the confinement of prison it occurred to them that their testimony about the captive ladies might draw off attention from their real delinquencies and the pretended knowledge of the burial place of the women who they supposed to have

rich

rich and powerful friends, might procoure for them some material advantage as well as a release from confinement when called upon to point out a spot that would surely be visited by many generous and susceptible foreigners.

A short investigation satisfied us that this and a hundred other reports then and later given to us by the Turkish offocials were without any satisfactory foundation and were absolutely worthless and misleading. We soon learned to take these reports at their true value and were not turned aside by them from our work of procuring in our own way such evidence of the real fate of the ladies, as could be obtained.

Through the aid of some influential friends we soon got an interview with a person who was said to be able to bring us a word direct from the brigands' camp-a probable member of some branch of the band. He undertook to bring us, within a few days, on a sheet of paper furnished and marked by ourselves, a letter from Miss Stone, whom he insisted was, from his own knowledge, well and in safe hands. This messenger, for some reason, never brought us the desired letter, though we believe he communicated with some part of the band and remained with them for a time.

From information obtained from this messenger and other sources we became satisfied that our negotiations would begin in the city of Sofia (Bulgaria) though in all probability our first approaches to those who could treat for Miss Stone's ransom would be through an intermediary.

About this time I wrote to a party in Sofia on whom I thought I could rely and who I had reason to think could find a way for reaching some one who could get a word ~~with~~ to the brigands. I called his attention to the notices that Mr. Eddy had caused to be printed about the time we reached Salonica in the newspapers published in Sofia, calling attention to our mission and the lines on which we proposed cond ucting it, to our wish to avoid all embarrassing lines of investigation, and to come into immediate and friendly conference with the parties who could surrender Miss Stone to us in return for a ransom. This letter reached the mark, it was not, I believe, ~~the chief~~ an important factor in bringing about the conference that furnished us the basis for our successful work, but it was present at that conference and had an influence there.

From such information as I have at present I am led to suspect that the captives must have secured the assent of the brigands to the acceptance of the sum raised, and sent an agent to Sofia, the only place known to them to treat for their release-among the papers handed us by the brigands when the money was paid-is an authorization written by Miss Stone empowering the bearer

to

to treat for her delivery. This bears date the 17th December or the day after we left Constantinople.

On the 27th December we left Salonica for Serres in order to be in a less conspicious place and in order to get a closer touch with the mountainous district to the North the scene of our future work. At this time Mr. Gargiulo and myself were continuing our investigation of the official Turkish evidence on several points in the case.

About a week after our arrival, Dr. House who had been spending a few days with his congregation at Drama came to Serres and shortly after received letters from Sofia and from Mr. Dickenson showing that an agent of the brigands had approached the agent representing Mr. Dickenson in Sofia. Mr. Dickenson, it seems made a strong effort to get the brigands to agree to payment and delivery in Bulgaria but to no purpose. He then directed that the matter be put into Dr. House's hands, whom he supposed was in Salonica and not in any way connected with us.

Seeing that there was an evident intention on Mr. Dickenson's part to exclude Mr. Gargiulo and myself from the case and being uncertain as to who was in charge at Constantinople we (Mr. Gargiulo and myself) wrote at once to the Legation offering to retire if Mr. Dickenson was willing to undertake the work in order to give him what he was denying us and what we felt to be essential to success-a free field. We soon learned that Mr. Leishman had returned and that to his mind both justice and hope of success called for the support of the committee on the field. Rising to the requirements of the occasion he promptly suppressed Mr. Dickenson and appointed the committee anew with myself as chairman and Mr. Gargiulo and Dr. House as the other members. Thus arranged Dr. House set off, as per appointment made at Sofia, to have his first interview with the brigands, and arrange for a subsequent meeting with the full committee, and the payment of the ransom.

The remainder of the story you will get from my letter to Mr. Leishman. I will only add here that our work was prosecuted under most difficult circumstances. The officials (Turkish) were determined that our success in getting into communication with the brigands should result also in their gain in apprehending them, consequently they took the utmost care to keep a close watch upon us. Under the pretence of guarding us from capture, they surrounded us with a strong guard and placed spies upon our track who never let us get beyond their sight. The utmost deference was paid to us, we were honored like princes, but most carefully guarded. When later on the money had been sent

to

to us and we had that treasure in our possession, our guard was doubled. Finding that we were able to communicate with the brigands in spite of their watchfulness they endeavored to prevent us from carrying out our purpose by obstructive measures that ended at least in a flat refusal to allow us to go on, and an admission that orders had been issued to prohibit us from paying the ransom in Turkey. This step had been taken in imitation of a like step already taken by Bulgaria and with the idea that the payment of the ransom in Turkey would strengthen our claim upon the Turkish government for a recovery of the amount paid to the brigands.

In reply to this position we not only protested most vigorously against the denial of our evident right to ransom our country woman in the same province in which she had been taken captive but the course they were pursuing would so far from decreasing their responsibility only add to it many fold.

This situation was of course fully reported to Mr. Leishman with the information that if persisted in, our work could not proceed-with any hope of success.

In spite of this, however, we informed the authorities that we were determined to press on in spite of all objections and prohibitions. This was met by the information that sometime before, the authorities at Constantinople had obtained from our Minister a guarantee to the effect that the Turkish government would not be held to answer to a claim for damages for accidents to the committee when away from the presence of the Turkish guard. Also that it was their purpose in bringing a large body of troops into our neighborhood to apprehend the brigands if possible and to fire on them when found, regardless of the presence of the committee. They warned us in the most solemn manner of the danger into which we were going. To meet this we told them that such an action on their part was simply a denial of our right to recover an American in the place where she had been taken captive and was also a reversal of promises made to us by the Ministers at the Porte upon our setting out. And that any attempt to prevent or hinder our work would carry with it responsibilities of the gravest kind. We were fighting for life without knowing what our blows might bring. Imagine our joy when we got a telegram from Mr. Leishman to the effect that by an Imperial Iredeh His Majesty had made known his wish that our captive friends should be released and that facilities must be given us and to this end not only the troops, but their commanders as well, were under our control and orders so far as this work was concerned.

This turned the tide, we fairly hugged each other in our joy.

Calling

Calling the authorities together we spread the telegram before them and repeated our demands-reminding them that by His Majesty's pleasure we held the position of Commander in Chief. This ended the obstructive measures against which we had been fighting for many days. Our telegram (sent in cypher) had in Mr.Leishman's active hands reached the mark. Still by a well known custom in Turkish bureaus where one set of orders are given to a Minister and other secret orders to modify them are issued to the officials, the Sultan's Iredeh was not what was at first supposed and the guard was as close as ever so that when we approached the brigands we were still under the most careful surveillance. The brigands demand, was for a payment which would be a secret one, and also, that the fact the payment had been made, should be kept from the government. This required us to pay over about 240 pounds (in weight) of gold in a secret interview. The gold was with us, but was most carefully guarded and our movements were closely watched. The house in which we lodged with the chief commander of the troops and several of his aids, was under an armed guard, the streets were watched and over 200 soldiers were quartered about us. We had not only to get the money to the brigands without detection, but our baggage must not show any loss of weight. This was the problem which the brigands gave us. To secure our captives we had to solve it to their satisfaction.

The money was paid to the brigands by the full committee within almost a stone's cast of the troops. When two days later we left the locality none save the members of the Committee knew that the valises sent us by the Ottoman Bank the appearance and weight of which remained unchanged, had been opened and payment made and a pledge for Miss Stone's delivery taken from the men who held her in custody.

The long interval between the payment of the ransom money and the delivery was accepted with great reluctance, but this condition could not be modified. The brigands had a purpose to fulfil that was readily understood.

Wherever the captives may have been lodged during their long imprisonment I cannot say, but the demands of the Bulgarian government were met when the delivery of the prisoners was made, two days journey from the frontier.

By understanding with the brigands the committee went to Serres to wait for the delivery of our friends. The agreed term was considerably exceeded owing to the great activity on the part of the troops in the vicinity of Serres immediately after our arrival.

Finding that our efforts to keep the troops quiet were availing nothing and as our work was fully done, with Mr.Leishman's consent, I left Serres

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for Constantinople on the 13th February, where on my arrival I was able to lay the situation before the Minister more satisfactorily than could be done through our cypher despatches.

The brigands apparently made an attempt within the time fixed for the delivery of the captives to set them free not far from Serres, but were deterred by the activity of the troops. They seemed then to have turned north and at last set the ladies at liberty near Strumnitza on the 23rd (February) just one month after we received the gold at the hands of the Second dragoman of the Legation and the U.S. Marshal, in Djuma Bala near the Bulgarian frontier.

I have sent you this brief account for your information only, please do not publish it. Also keep the report to Mr. Leishman away from those who will be likely to print it. In these reports I have given many things that cannot be given to the public now.

I hope it will be many a long day before we have another case like this. Let us thank God for the delivery of this noble and earnest worker, and let us hope that the cause we love may not suffer in any way because of this act of brigandage and the payment of such a large sum as ransom.

I am glad to have been able to give help in this case, but the service I rendered was only the doing of my duty, and should not be made much of. Those who kept the business and the home going in my protracted absence rendered a service no less actual than mine. I am chiefly concerned now in doing my work well. Of course I have been very busy since my return and have found it difficult to attend to all that has pressed for attention.

Yours faithfully

W. W. Peet

Stare Case.

"Final negotiations and the payment of the Jansson

Apr. 17-1902

To the Public

When it was first made to appear to me that a recital of my experiences in captivity, by lectures or through the press, was regarded by those in whose judgment I confide, and imperative, and might be productive of financial results, it was in my heart to devote any such proceeds towards re-imbursing any who may have embarrassed themselves by keeping to provide my ransom.

A further hope grew in my heart that ~~after~~ I might also perhaps do something for those missionary purposes to which I have given my life, & to which I have ~~also~~ always ~~devo~~ heretofore devoted all moneys which have come to me, by my own earnings, or by gifts, or legacies, — such for instance as the establishment of an industrial school in Macedonia, in which young men may be trained in legitimate ~~industries~~ occupations, so that they may not grow up to become brigands.

While I have had these purposes at heart, I have felt a strong reluctance to state formally my intentions in this matter, lest it ~~xx~~ should appear like proclaiming what it seemed to me

Mat. 28-1-07

those who had known me would naturally suppose to ~~my mot~~ be my motives.

Yet inasmuch as it has been intimated to me that those who have not known me might suppose that my friends or I have in view a purpose of personal enrichment, I am glad to tell the fact that in my life I have been here at home, as abroad, simply the missionary of Christ, and shall continue to devote all I am and have, or may have, to the promotion of the kingdom of God.

Ellen M. Stone

Boston April 17. 1902.

Boston Transcript

TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 1902

THAT RANSOMED MISSIONARY

If you dropped into Tremont Temple last evening from motives of curiosity only and with no particular sympathy with Miss Ellen M. Stone of Chelsea and Macedonia and the things for which she stands, if you had been feeling of late that she was inclined to make merchandise of her sufferings at the hands of the brigands over there in the hills of Macedonia, in spite of yourself, your mood changed before she had been talking fifteen minutes. In the first place you were looking upon the elegantly gowned figure of a queenly woman in latter middle life. Strength, repose, determination were all writ large in her open, cheerful countenance. The voice was that of a gentlewoman, quiet, even penetrative, agreeable. The first findings of your critical eyes and ears at once gave birth to the thought, "Why, this woman would have adorned Boston society if she had not chosen to waste her best years in the missionary business."

As she went on with her thrilling recital you could not but admire the reserves in her tale as well as its admirable literary form. Such effective use of English, such nice discrimination in the choice of words, such entire absence of repititiousness one does not often encounter in extemporaneous speakers. But it was far from being parrot-like, memoriter work. Moreover did not harp upon the trials and tribulations of those six months of captivity. You were not looking upon a woman who had any desire to be considered a martyr or who regarded herself in that light. She had simply risked the chances of her calling and when an experience came to her that has been the lot of no other missionary in the last hundred years she had not whined about it then, nor was she coming back to America to excite emotionally minded people by the story of her recent woes. Lightly, indeed, on the whole, did she pass over them. The simple narrative, it is true, made clear what anguish she and her companion had endured, but she did not admit her auditors into the deepest recesses of her own heart or project constantly into view the physical privations and the mental anguish of those terrible one hundred and seventy-two days.

So before her lecture was over you concluded that this ransomed missionary has sterling qualities, that she belongs to the same class with the late Frances Willard and Lady Henry Somerset, and that in whatever unfortunate complications others may have involved her in this lecturing undertaking, she is herself as free from guile and as unselfish as the noblest lady in the land. If there are many like her in the mission field you decide to take a little more stock in the missions hereafter. If the vocation breeds such dignity and poise and capacity it may be a more intellectually ennobling calling than you have imagined it to be. You don't wonder that her personality so wrought upon the brigands that however much they flourished their revolvers before her they could never bring themselves to the point of discharging them at her or at Mrs. Tsilka. And you readily believe the assertion now made at the rooms of the American Board that she shaped to a large extent the negotiations on the part of the brigands that finally brought about her release.

So by the spell of a woman's voice and a woman's presence and a woman's heroic career the most skeptical is likely to be transformed from a critic into an admirer and find himself at last saying: "There may be something in this missionary business after all."

MISS STONE SHOWS PICTURES

Views of Brigands, Her Mission House and the Tsilkas and Their Baby Are Features of Her First Lecture

So many people were eager to hear the story of captivity among the Turkish brigands from Miss Ellen M. Stone's own lips that Tremont Temple was crowded last evening when she gave her first public lecture. The audience included a large number of people who were very friendly, to judge from the long-continued applause with which they greeted her entrance to the platform with Rev. A. H. Plumb, D. D., who, as her old-time pastor at the First Congregational Church in Chelsea, introduced her to the audience and expressed the hope that as Miss Stone had yielded to what he called the necessity of telling her story abroad through the whole country it would result in awakening much interest in the missions and mission work.

Miss Stone herself, tall and well poised, looked her best in a handsome gown of black, with American Beauty roses fastened in front. She showed traces of nervousness when she was first introduced, but after a few sentences of description of the country and the missionary work with which she had been familiar there, she went simply and naturally into her story, and forgot her diffidence. Her voice was pleasant, and she enunciates with a natural precision and distinctness that was grateful to those who listened, yet she has also a habit of suddenly dropping her voice, clipping her periods, and rushing through groups of words, which, unminded by a small group of listeners, often make a large audience sigh for the sustained tones by which a trained lecturer would manage, even in moments of emotion, to carry his words to all parts of the house. Miss Stone was

followed with close attention, and was applauded once in the middle of her lecture, where she said that instead of agreeing to Mme. Tsilka's wish, to run away from the brigands, she herself meant to make them take the whole responsibility of restoring them to freedom and safety.

Her story was in the main what has been outlined in the newspapers, of course, but there were many details not before given and an added interest from the direct personal narrative. Nothing that she told indicated any great inhumanity shown them by the brigands, and no greater physical suffering than might be described by the term "severe discomfort," but it was plain that the mental strain to which they were subjected was something that few would care to undergo. Though they themselves were treated well, they heard the death blows given to a captive from another party just after their own capture on the high road. They had been driven up the mountain and had been allowed to pause. Then, as Miss Stone described it:

"We heard footsteps passing above us, and looking up we saw such a face as I never can forget—the face of a fellow-sufferer, the face of one who had suffered, whereas then we had not suffered. A blow from the stock of some gun had so wounded him on the temple that blood was streaming down his face. His arms were pinioned behind with a scarlet girdle, and as he walked the resounding blows on his back from the brigand who was driving him came to our ears. He turned as he passed and gave one look at the brigand. But there was no mercy in that heart. He drove him on across the path where we were sitting, drove him a little beyond us, and there that life ended. We saw not, because we would not look. We could not close our ears to that death cry, nor the sound of the horrible thrusts of the dagger.

"Just after that one of our captors separated me from the rest. Just then I became conscious of a terrible thirst. My tongue cleaved to the roof of my mouth. I asked the man for water, and he told me to go over there and get it, pointing. I did not want to go over there. You would not have wanted to go. But it was better to go. I went, but I did not see what was in the thicket, thank God. After slaking my thirst I returned to what I supposed might be my death. I remember seeing Mr. Tsilka sitting there, with his face in his hands. I did not know then that he passed through the fearful ordeal of being separated from his wife during the time I had been absent. But when I returned there sat Mrs. Tsilka. Can't you understand that even at that moment there was feeling of relief, that whatever was to be my fate it was to be shared? I was n't alone."

On the other hand, in describing their experiences in captivity, from day to day, she mentioned an occurrence at Thanksgiving time that showed another side to the character of the brigands. On the evening before Thanksgiving Day, their guard, noting Miss Stone, as she was pacing up and down the few feet of space in which they were allowed to move about, remarked to Mme. Tsilka that the missionary did not seem happy that evening. Mme. Tsilka said she did not wonder, and then told him of the nature of the festival which would be celebrated in her own country on the morrow. He said nothing, but next morning appeared before the women with the announcement, made as nonchalantly as possible, that a turkey had been killed and he wanted to know how they would like to have it cooked. Miss Stone remarked to her audience that there were good points in brigands.

Miss Stone made no criticism or comment regarding the complications as to her release, except to say that if in response to her note the authorities had not trusted the brigands sufficiently to pay over the money in advance of the release that she and Mme. Tsilka would even now be either in captivity or lifeless. Her gratefulness for the ransom was apparent all through her lecture.

At the end she had the lights lowered and showed, with stereopticon, twenty-five or thirty views of the cities and villages mentioned in her talk, pictures of groups of brigands, of mission families, schools and teachers, and best of all, her own quarters in the missionary field, and pictures of herself and Mme. Tsilka in the coarse suits which they were obliged to make for themselves of homespun while in captivity, and pictures which showed the Tsilka baby in several different and interesting poses.

The last picture was drawn off the screen a minute or two before ten o'clock.

Editorial Notices in the
Transcript on Miss Sto
appearance on the lect
platforms.

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JUN 6 1902

Memoranda in regard to the liability

of the Turkish Government for a claim as indemnity in the Stone case.

* * * * * * * * * * * *

First, there is no case at all against the Bulgarian government. Nothing has occurred on Bulgarian soil and we cannot affirm that Bulgarian subjects or anyone with the help or connivance of the Bulgarian government has taken any step in the affair.

The essential proofs needful to make a case are entirely wanting when we address the Bulgarians. A good deal of time and expense has been given to the matter of working up a case against Bulgaria, but all here are agreed that nothing has come of it.

I think it is quite likely that Miss Stone's captors are Bulgarian by race and it may be that the officials of the Bulgarian government have a secret hope that the Macedonian cause may prevail and possibly they would take some satisfaction in contemplating any step that might lead to Turkey's discomforture about this matter. The brigands also, undoubtedly used great care to shield Bulgaria from charges of complicity in the affair and to throw as fully as possible the burden of the crime upon Turkey.

Really this is about the substance of the case that has been made out against Bulgaria. It is not sufficient to rest a claim upon.

Second. Our claim upon Turkey, however, is clear and plain. The crime was committed on her soil, on one of the chief roads in that part of Macedonia in the open day, not far from a guardhouse. The brigands were able to do their work successfully, only because the government was lax in its guard of the road. The place where the crime was committed was a full day's journey, as the road runs from the Bulgarian frontier. It was therefore well on Turkish soil.

Third. It has been reported that Miss Stone refused ~~all~~ an offer of the (Turkish) officials at Bansko to furnish her with a suitable guard for this journey. We ought, perhaps, to get Miss Stone to say if this claim now made by the officials is true. It has the appearance of an oriental lie. If, however, the officials did offer a guard it is pretty good evidence that they had

had reason to suspect that the road was unsafe. In such a case they ought to have sent whatever guard was needful to protect the party or the soldiers at the guard house might have convoyed the party over that part of the road just beyond them where the danger was known to be greatest, and where the arrest occurred.

The government cannot, it seems to me, clear itself from responsibility by calling attention to the fact that they had fears enough to lead them to endeavor to pursuade the party to take a guard and that Miss Stone, ignorant of the situation declined to take one.

When I was in Macedonia the government sent a guard after me if, as it often happened, I set out without one.

Fourth. When Mr. Gargiulo and myself were trying to secure the release of Miss Stone we were told at one point in our negotiations with the Turkish officials, that all needed facilities for treating with the brigands would be given us if we would sign a paper assuring the (Turkish) government that no claim would be made upon it by our Legation in Constantinople for the money we were expecting to pay as ransom. Of course no such paper was given, but I remarked at the time that this proposition pointed to the fact that some high official was convinced of the liability of Turkey and was seeking by this means to provide a release from liability under it.

Fifth. Turkey is not discharged from liability even if the brigands were Bulgarian subjects because (a) Bulgaria is not an independent State but is a vassal province of Turkey and the subjects of Bulgaria, when in Turkey are held to be subjects of the Porte and (b) even if Bulgaria were an independent state and the brigands subjects of that state, Turkey's responsibility to America would not be changed thereby. The crime was committed on Turkish soil and solely because of the failure of the Turkish government to properly guard its own roads. In any case the perpetrators of the deed are subjects of Turkey.

Sixth. In cases of brigandage, where the subjects of other nations have in the past been victims, the (Turkish) government has been held responsible and a refund of the amount paid to the brigands has been exacted, through the efforts of the embassy of the country interested.

The

The management of this case by America has been freely criticized - the large payment made as ransom-the publicity given to almost every step - are points that have been looked upon as mistakes, the effect of which will be to encourage brigandage, while a failure on our part to follow up the case by holding Turkey responsible as has been the custom in like cases in the past by other nationalities will set a precedent that cannot but work harmfully in the future

Seventh. The missionaries in Bulgaria and Macedonia are united in calling for some action that will show to all who may be observing America's actions in this case that our government is willing and able to suitably vindicate the cause of any citizen who suffers wrongfully and unlawfully at the hands of the subjects of other powers.

[illegible] the [illegible] Government
for a claim as indemnity in the
Stone Case

From "Vetcherna Poshta" (The Evening Post) Sophia, Bul., Nov. 11, '02.

A LETTER FROM AMERICA.

I have written, and again I repeat it, that the American missionaries and their servile creatures, the Bulgarian protestants, are at present the most pitiless calumniators of the Bulgarian nation, and especially of the self-sacrificing laborers in the work of Macedonian liberation. In this article I shall present indisputable proofs of their treacherous conduct. The readers will remember that some weeks ago Mr. Dickinson, the American Consul General in Constantinople, declared in the hearing of all at a public dinner that the Bulgarian government and the Macedonian Committee are the most directly responsible for the seizure of Miss Stone. I refuted this statement of the pious American relying on the following points:-

I. That the capture of Miss Stone presents nothing of importance beyond the fact that the government within whose territory she was seized was not in a condition to catch the captors. Incidents of a similar kind occur in every country not excepting America. That which aroused the civilized world was the disorder and chaos of the Turkish administration. This both Miss Stone and Mr. Dickinson understand very well; but from mercenary considerations they purposely conceal it from their fellow countrymen. Mr. Dickinson and Miss Stone pass among the Americans as sincere Christians, when in reality they are the greatest Pharisees who make a business out of the sad fortune of a defenceless nation whose human rights are so ferociously trodden under foot by the Asiatic Ishmaelites.

2. Mr. Dickinson has no right to blame the Bulgarian government with participation in this unfortunate affair simply because it was refused to the missionaries to invite the captors of Miss Stone into Bulgarian territory for the conclusion of the terms of the liberation. It does not demand a diplomatic mind to see that the honor of a nation is much more valuable than the life of one woman, even though she was an American. This also the Turkophile Dickinson understands well, but he plays the idiot because it is to his interest to mislead the American public.

3. I affirmed positively and again I repeat that the Macedonian Committee chosen officially and in a regular manner by the Macedonian Congress, had no knowledge of and no interest in the seizure of Miss. Stone. To affirm the contrary is more than absurd. Whoever may have composed the band of Macedonian laborers they may have had recourse to such seizures for the purpose of helping their oppressed brothers in Macedonia; but this still does not indicate that the legally chosen committee is the party really guilty of the crime. This also Mr. Dickinson and his partisans, the Bulgarian protestants, well know, but they purposely conceal it in order to give the necessary mystery to the seizure of Miss Stone and in such a manner to get more money from the credulous Americans.

The newspaper "The New York Tribune" in an editorial thus replies to my just but mild protests under the title "Bulgarian Brigandage". "The agent of the famous Macedonian Committee is much troubled by the disclosures and attacks on the part of Mr. Dickinson, the Consul General in Constantinople in relation to the snares and methods of this organization, and protests against

them, saying that they do injustice to XXX Bulgaria and the Bulgarians. He denies that the Macedonian Committee was responsible for the seizure of Miss Stone and that the Bulgarian government is in any way responsible, and declares that such a crime would be impossible in Bulgaria. His protests are worthy of being heard and noticed, but there is little reason to suppose that they will be conclusive to any one who has followed intelligently the well known course of the events.

" Mr. Dickinson does not speak from simple rumors, but from specially intimate, detailed, personal acquaintance with the facts in the given case. The facts are that Miss Stone was seized and held in captivity by Bulgarian brigands, who, according to strongest indications, were members or agents of the Macedonian Committee. She may have been seized on Turkish and not on Bulgarian soil. This means nothing. Brigands do not respect boundaries except when it is to their advantage to do so. In this case it was more advantageous for them that they should be seized on Turkish rather than on Bulgarian territory. The essential point is that her captors were Bulgarians. More than this, certain functionaries of the Bulgarian government acted in a way that can be explained only on the supposition that they were in agreement or at least in sympathy with the brigands. In addition to this, the Bulgarians who are connected with the Macedonian Committee openly boasted th Miss Stone was seized by the Committee to replenish its funds by means of extortion forced from her government. These are facts long known, repeatedly made public and never successfully denied."

"Supplementary to that which Mr. Dickinson discloses in the case of Mis Stone it is indisputable that the Macedonian Committee was declared guilty of the murder of a Bucharest professor, and that it has taken money by forc from the Roumanians; that its former leader, Sarafoff, has openly declared that his cause must be extended by means of extortion and assassination and that its constitution and laws provide for and sanction assassinations. We do not attribute these crimes of the Committee to the Bulgarian nation. It can be believed that the Bulgarians are in most cases the "peaceful, law-abiding people" which this agent of the Committee represents them to be. If it is so, or rather, because it is so, they ought to be congratulated that their government has stiffled the organization which has defamed their good name."

Thus writes the most influential newspaper of America under the dictation of Mr. Dickinson. Whence has Mr. Dickinson obtained this false intelligence? Ask the Samokov missionaries and their apprentices, the Bulgarian protestants. " God save you from a Bulgarian perverted to Islam" XX says a Bulgarian proverb, "and from a Bulgarian protestant" I will add.

(Signed) S. J. Shoomkoff.

Boston, Oct. 26, 1902.

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Boston, Oct. 26, 1902.

Translation made by Rev. Mr. Ostrander of Kattern which appeared in the "Evening Post" of November 11, 1902

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ADVERTISING RATES MADE KNOWN ON APPLICATION AT THIS OFFICE.

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Miss Ellen Stone, who succeeded in keeping herself before the world for a few weeks recently, because of being kidnapped by Turks, is now asking the United States to assist her in collecting damages from the Turkish government. She has more unadulterated gall than twenty book agents. By means of the sympathy racket, enough money was collected for her ransom, to feed the starving babies of this country for weeks, had it been so usued. As soon as she got free she—like Hobson—took to the lecture platform, and by exhibiting herself in the same manner as the woman of the side show, who bites the heads off of snakes, has made a fortune. All this curiosity money went into her purse, and it is not improbable that she received a share of the ransom paid her captors. But if she did not, when a missionary goes into a land whose people have a religion different from that of the mission ary, she takes upon herself all the dangers of her calling from miasnatic fever to constituting the savory portion of a cannibalistic missionary stew. And when a missionary makes herself so unpopular with the people she is trying to save, that when captured and subjected to the ordeal of association with bandits, her condition arouses no sympathy among these people, she deservec little at home It is something like a man deliberately placing himself on a railroad track to be struck by a locomotive, and then suing the company for damages. When Christ sent out the seventy disciples He said unto them, "Carry neither purse nor scrip." "And into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you." Whatsoever city ye enter and they receive you not, go your way out into the streets of the same and say: 'Even the very dust of your city which cleaveth to us, we do wipe off against you.'" Nothing here about a sensational lecture tour about the indignities received; nothing about calling upon the government to make a nation respect the Native of Bethlehem. Nothing here about calling upon the kingdoms of earth to protect the kingdom of Heaven. Miss Stone is about as far removed from the spirit of the true missionary as the Turks are from the Christian religion.

Remove for binder

Rev A. N. Hitchcock Ph. D. - 153 La Salle Street Chicago Ill. U. S. A.

Dear Bro - The article in the Advance of some 5 weeks ± ago was written by a Bulgarian in Chicago (once a student of mine & I spent a night with him when in Chicago) was not true as to the nationality of the captors of Miss Stone - One of them passed through this city (Samokov) last ~~spring~~ summer leading a band some of whom were men of high standing - one a poet another a physician - some of them were entertained by one of the most prominent & devotedly christian leaders of this place who is was a member of one of the Macedonian committees. With more so led, this "brigand" chief (voivoda) would have about 100 in his band. I think this leader was the one whom Miss Stone's article calls the bad man. Another is frequently heard of as leader of a band towards Monastir - The third of the chief leaders has, I think, been killed. The writer of that article may think he tells the truth, but it has for many months been the plan of Bulgarian leaders in Bulgaria to boldly & insistently claim that the captors were Turks. They could not speak Turkish.

(X) Possibly you may think it worth while to have Prof. Robinson & others more or less of this to go with the enclosed - If so, please let me know & I will see what can be done. Yours faithfully D. F. Clarke

subjects but I think the three leaders had moved to Bulgaria (as thousands have), where Bulgarian subjects.

Since the outbreak of the revolution in Monastir (not at Salonica or before) the conduct of the insurgents has been such as to gain respect for much (not all) of their movements. All American missionaries strongly sympathize with the efforts for freedom made by the scattered bands. After over 25 years of waiting for the Powers to require the Turks to fulfill their terms of autonomy, it surely is not strange if they use means the best they can - though they seem to them diabolical.

Except a little which I have crossed out, what is written in the enclosed article I should still endorse. It states what then existed essentially as I should now report it. As changed by Dr Barton, because he thought its publication would endanger my life & missionary work here - it would probably have been published by my nephew but for his sickness & death. If you do not think it undesirable I should like to have the article & this letter sent to Secretary of State John Hay. It may

not be proper to send this sheet, so written, & still be proper to send the typed article enclosed. With revised work & the 2 pages added

use any thing - if would be of any use

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edited

Ans'd NOV 19 1903

MACEDONIA AND THE CAPTURE OF MISS STONE.

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I have recently spent several nights in a town near the border of Macedonia, at a Khan, which for years, has been my home when visiting that place. During the first evening an unusual commotion was caused by the arrival of a band of 30 men, who had been sent out by the Macedonian Committee. They had just returned from an invasion of weeks, into Turkish territory, whither they had gone, both to make plans for a general uprising of Bulgarians, and also to commit depredations on the Turks, so as to cause bloodshed and revenge, which might lead to European intervention. Their full number was reported as 240, of whom a part were from Macedonia. They were weary and hungry, from three sleepless days and nights, during which they had been surrounded in the mountains by Turkish soldiers, but planned to again return to the same work after a rest of a few days, and getting a new supply of ammunition, which they expected to receive from the Bulgarian government. During the next two days, I saw much of them, and especially talked with one of their leaders. Government officials had repeated intercourse with them during those days. About a week later I spent several days with one who had fled from Macedonia, because accused by the Turks of having some connection with revolutionary movements. He knew much of the plans of the Macedonian Committee and had learned somewhat as to the capture of Miss Stone. He was sure that the capture was made by persons not directly connected with either of the Committees, but that the captors had taken an oath, that the money should go for the freedom of Macedonia

and that it was then in Sophia. Still more recently I have freely talked with one, who years ago was a member of a band employed in inciting a revolt in Macedonia, and planning, for the same, and for the past months has been again in the same work, in the region in which Miss Stone was a captive, and there had been pointed out to him in various buildings, the exact spots in different rooms where Miss Stone, Mrs. Tsilka, and the band had sat. I have travelled hundreds of miles in Macedonia with Miss Stone, passed over with her the road leading through the localities where she was held captive, on the lower part of which road we were accosted, but not molested by briagnds, and also the path on which she was captured, as well as over two other mountain paths to Bansko; and with others crossed by still two other paths to Macedonia. Years ago, I lunched in the hamlet whence came some of her immediate captors, and at night of the same day slept near the church, in one of the houses ~~around~~ near which I have pointed out baby Elenche was born. Probably elsewhere was the real place ? I give so much data to show that I have had some exceptional opportunities for reliable information. The situation in Macedonia is as follows: That part of the country in which the Bulgarian element is the most numerous was freed by Russia, by her war with Turkey. The Berlin treaty of 1878 put back all of Macedonia under the rule of Turkey, but with the promise of an autonomous government which would have given local control to both Turks and Bulgarians, wherever either nationality was in the majority. This promise has been utterly disregarded by the Turks and none of the European powers have taken any interest to see that the promised terms were carried out. The same injustice and violence as before has continued in different places, and been possible in all. I have repeatedly travelled

through Macedonia, from Bulgaria to the Ægean Sea and gone from Drama to near the Albanian border, and have had persons in my employ who were constantly traversing the same region, and I know, and have seen that when the people were not, as now, giving any excuse for violence, there have been many acts of injustice and cruelty. I saw burning buildings, set on fire by the Turks--saw a young Turk put his threatening knife to the breast of a Bulgarian simply because the latter was persistent in wishing to continue to use for his garden the little stream of water which the Turk wanted. I passed over a road, where the day before, two villagers carrying their produce to market, were killed by Turks. A young Turk borrowed a watch, but returned it only when forced by an appeal to the government, when he said to the owner, "You care more for your watch than for your life," and a few days later he was killed. ~~An issue of the~~ Springfield (Mass.) Republican of ~~about~~ April 12, 1901, gives a full account of a case, the circumstances of which I well knew, in which a Bulgarian maiden when she was working in a field, was forcibly carried off by a Turk, tied on horse back behind him that she might be his wife. Her refusal to become a Moslem wife, given in a Turkish court--where I once rescued a girl from being married contrary to her will--led to the imprisonment of many Bulgarians who unarmed, were near the court building, the forced flight of the whole family of the maiden, and to the murder of a relative. The two witnesses to this murder after stating the case as it took place, were kept until after dark and tortured until they said that they had killed their companion, which was written out and they obliged to sign it, and they were then imprisoned. When the town of Batak, my place of relief work for seven months in 1876-7 ~~afterward~~, was so utterly

destroyed that there was not one tile upon a single roof, and some 1500 persons had been massacred, the Turks tried to get the women to sign a paper, saying that their own people killed one another.

The Bulgarians of Macedonia for long years have so suffered, looking for help, with longing eyes and pleading voice, to those nations, who had returned them to the Turkish yoke, yet they have found it all in vain, and realized that those who want help must help themselves. This led to the formation of the Macedonian Committee, which has been recognized by the Bulgarian Government, and as I was told by a Bulgarian officer two and a half years ago, then had 300,000 francs (about $60,000.) in the Bulgarian bank. Different sums have at times been extorted by threats and blackmail, but the funds have chiefly been secured in a business way, nominally as an investment, a receipt with stub, being given on which it was promised "that the amount would be returned, as soon as a grateful country could pay it back." I have been invited to give in the former way, and also threatened that my house would be blown up if I did not aid in the latter way, but made neither investment. There are now three Macedonian Committees. The original one was laying plans for a wide organization and a careful preparation which would ensure success. It is generally believed that that committee had some connection with the capture of Miss Stone. It is certain that the plans for her capture were known in Sophia and Philippopolis before it took place. For different reasons, soon after the capture, Mr. Michialoffski was chosen president of the "Kommitat" in place of Mr. Saraffoff, though Gen. Tonchef is said to be the directing power, and a somewhat different policy was adopted. The partisans of Mr. Saraffoff were however

not satisfied and chose another for president. This latter is now known as the Central Kommitate, the former being called the Superior Kommitate. This latter has endeavored as much as possible to gain over the partisans of the old Committee and to secure the supplies prepared in Macedonia by them. This has caused very great enmity on both sides and the two parties have repeatedly fought with one another. There is a third committee in Macedonia itself, having its headquarters in one of the chief Macedonian cities. The former two, in some measure work with this one, but there have been other grounds of discord. Some definitely seek that Macedonia be freed, so that she may form a part of a larger Bulgaria. It is claimed by some that the highest in authority in Bulgaria desire this, and that superior officers in the army have not only been allowed but ~~but~~ been requested to resign, or seek a furlough, so that they could in Macedonia directly engage in efforts for her freedom. Others claim that Macedonia should be for the Macedonians and wish an autonomous government. The former plan would arouse the antagonism of Greeks and Servians, who do not wish Bulgaria to become a greater power, but themselves also to benefit by having a share in the land.

I am assured that the country has been divided into four districts, over each of which there is a military leader and that these leaders were recently together in the region of Bansko, and formed plans for continuing their work. In the different villages visited by the bands, there have been persons previously appointed, ready to supply them with food, and other things needed, to receive and rapidly transmit any word to the bands or to other villages, and this aid has enabled the little bands, whose aim was simply

organization and preparation, to carry on their work, without being betrayed to the government. Self interest and fear, have controlled the villagers. They have had no other ground to hope for freedom, except the promises and work of these bands and if any planned to betray these bands, his detection and death were almost certain. By the Saraffoff Committee, with which most of the villagers have been in sympathy, arms and ammunition have been scattered and preparation made for a general but not immediate insurrection, but during the past months, the Superior Komitate has aimed at a more speedy uprising, by sending larger bands, to attack Turkish villages in Macedonia, in order that the Turks may be led to commit new outrages and the sympathy of Europe awakened, so that aid will be given, and freedom gained. These attacks were made, The villagers to the south of Djumaa, were told by the Bulgarian leaders that if they should begin the insurrection, the whole district of Rasloge, containing Bansko and other villages in which some of the most capable, progressive and influential Bulgarians live, would at once join them. The plans of the leaders did not succeed. The villages were attacked and the inhabitants fled to Bulgaria to the number of some 2000 of whom I have seen some 300 in Dubnitza. The people of the Rasloge district steadily refused to join the movement, but some of the bands have fought with Turks in their vicinity. Some men in Bansko, learning that they were sought by the Turkish government, fled to the mountains, then the leading men of the place were imprisoned for a time, but released that they might induce the people to give up the arms, which the Turks believed are there secreted. Some of these men at once fled to Bulgaria. In another village, whence the men had fled, the

the women were beaten, that they should give up the secreted weapons, and about 60 guns were secured. In another place, over 50 were given up. The governor went to all the villages of the district, with policemen and soldiers, to search for guns, Many men fled on this expected approach, or as soon after as possible. At least 200 ablebodied men, perhaps more, (probably 500 + possibly 1000) must have come to Bulgaria, from the six villages in that district. About 50 have passed through this city. One of them said to me, "Some have told us to join the insurrection--others said, "we are not ready, wait." I asked a man wounded in a skirmish with the Turks, whether such inroads as his band had made would secure the freedom of Macedonia. He said, "We must do what we can and Europe must do the rest." Probably none of the women and children of the district have fled, The deep snow on the mountains make this impossible. The preachers of one of the two evangelical churches and the lady teachers are still there, but in fear.

It seems to the people of the Rasloge district that their trouble has been brought upon them by the unwise incursions of bands from Bulgaria, but they themselves are not wholly free from blame. One of the first to flee from Bansko, asked me to write of the condition of their homes, to the missionaries in Salonica, but he added, "The men are guilty, let them suffer." But of this more afterward.

The following items, as to Miss Stone's capture, seem to be facts. She was taken in Macedonia, which is Turkish territory, about 15 miles from the Bulgarian border (approximately 22° 58' E. Long. from Greenwich and 41° 53' N. Lat., but freed 22° 08' E. from Greenwich and 49° 28' N. Lat.) by Bulgarians, Turkish subjects, from

a near village, from Bansko and from other places, but at once delivered to the three leaders, who kept her in captivity, who were near, all of whom were Bulgarians, from two places in Bulgaria. A promise of 1000 Turkish liras had been made to the villagers who captured her, but they not only did not get this money, but found out that the leaders thought to take their lives, and returned to their homes. The locality of the capture was not far from the river Struma, and the most of the time of the captivity seems to have passed in that region, with perhaps one or more visits to Bansko. The people of that district largely dwell in hamlets and single houses in the mountain valleys; well suited for secreting the little band. If at any time, the Turks learned of their locality and sent troops from the north, from Djumaa, or Mehomia, or from Melnik on the south, quick-footed messengers informed the band, who would speedily move to some other perhaps distant and more secluded locality. It seems that once or more special huts were put up in secluded places. One such was pointed out to one of my informants. In the spring of 1879 when engaged in relief work for those who had fled from Turkish violence brought upon them by an uprising, in order to visit some needy villages, I was given a policeman by the Russian officer, then acting governor of Djumaa. Under his guidance I lunched near the church, from the scattered attendants at which came some of the first hand captors, slept by the church, in one of the houses, ~~about~~ near which I have been told baby Elenchae was born, and continued my trip up the hills, among some of which are villages, where, or near which Miss Stone must have been kept for a time. ? No

There is no doubt that some, probably very many of the villagers, in or near whose homes Miss Stone was guarded, well

knew of the captives, supplied the band with food, and sympathized with and aided the captors, in every possible way, because they thought the capture would aid in freeing Macedonia. These villagers knew that Miss Stone and Mme. Tsilka were as well treated and cared for as was possible under the circumstances. They knew that their own wives and daughters were being left to suffer beatings, indignities, and shame by those powers to whom they had long looked for help, and that after years of promises and hope, no relief came. These villagers did not know enough to distinguish between those powers which had put them back under the yoke, and Americans who strongly sympathized with them in their desires for freedom, but gave them no practical aid to secure it.

The people in Bansko are perhaps as guilty for the capture of Miss Stone as any others, for they are capable and bold, above the average, of people in that region. I am assured that when those planning for the capture went to Bansko, three of the Macedonian Committee, favored the work but that the other two were against it, but were told that if they disclosed the plan they would be forced to give a large sum of money and still be killed, and so they dared not make known or hinder the plans. Such threats have not been empty words. The bands invading Macedonia have not only been welcomed, by the people, who hoped to be aided to gain freedom, but they have also been feared, for their means of communication were so rapid and sure and their real sympathizers so many that there was little hope of escape. One of the first captors who was the midway messenger for the Central Committee, between Bansko and Djumaa, was suspected of plans to betray a band sent by the Superior Komitale. My informant was one of those sent to his

mountain home to arrest and take him, the suspected one, to their leader. Letters proving his plan to betray them were found with him and he was killed the next day. "Better one to suffer, than the whole band," said their leader.

Last year, a man planned a like betrayal. On the mountain path on which Miss Stone was captured he was killed, and that they be not witnesses, his wife and another woman perished. Two or three months ago 700 sheep, belonging to the family of the above, were driven away by one of the band, but the Bulgarian government recently secured 200 of these, which were sold in Dubnitza Nov. 22nd and the money held for the benefit of the family.

To one knowing the reign of terror sometimes brought on by these bands, some of whom (not all) would level blackmail on the rich, or often on the poor, if suspected of treachery, the seeming connivance of many of whom better things would be expected seems less strange, but in God's Providence a terrible punishment is being meted out to many of them. Hundreds already, and it may yet become thousands of the men of the Rasloge district, have fled, leaving their families and property to whatever may come upon them. The people of the hamlets who came to the church, near which I supposed that baby Elenche was born, repeatedly repulsed the Turkish troops but were afterwards obliged to flee. In the "Rilo Balkan", published in Dubnitza by one formerly in the mission school, there was in the issue of Nov. 22 a list of refugees, from places which have been in a large measure destroyed because of the uprising. I saw some of the 300 of these, who were in the city, forlorn and needy, though cared for in a measure by the people. In their ruined villages, there must still be many greatly suffering. Of the places

mentioned as homes of the refugees, I am sure that from one, came some of the first captors, and that the people of another and probably of four or more of the remainder had they wished and been bold, could have rescued the captives when perhaps repeatedly in their vicinity. To rightly judge of the morality of the whole movement in Macedonia, including the capture of Miss Stone and Mme. Tsilka, many circumstances must be considered. On the one hand, all the efforts for freedom by insurrection and especially the so capturing and holding females for ransom, are crimes of the greatest enormity in the minds of many. On the Bulgarian side, however, all that is done in the "Holy Cause" of freeing Macedonia, is regarded as just by a large majority of the people. Few even of those who would be expected to think otherwise feel strongly enough to criticize the capture, and hardly any of these dare boldly to express an adverse opinion. The judgement of the Just God may be nearer the latter than the former view. When, some months ago, I was in Shumla, a Bulgarian officer, once a member of the Mission School, strongly asserted to me his belief that Miss Stone herself was in the plot for her capture! A simple comparison seems to me possible, and to show some of the bearings of the whole case. Years ago, the small boys in our primary school, were cruelly tormenting a little dog which was wholly in their power. One of the teachers, I think it was Miss Stone, rescued the dog and seriously talked with the boys. If now, another had returned that dog to the boys, for them to continue to torment it, the conduct of the one so returning it would be called execrable, by all persons having any feelings of humanity. If that dog so returned to his tormentors, should bite and in every possible way injure them no one would

blame it. If it should hurt some dog standing by, but not helping to save it from its tormentors, even this would not be reckoned against the suffering one. Such has been the case with Macedonia, freed by Russia, put back into violent irresponsible hands by European powers, she has after long and patiently seeking help from those powers, used all available means to free herself. In doing so, she has been unjust to and wronged those only standing by and not seeming to help her, and this wrong fell on Miss Stone and Mrs. Tsilka.

The perpetrators of this wrong are worthy of severe punishment. Some have suffered already. The people in various places have suffered, and are suffering now, and may yet suffer intensely more. The deed of the Powers was execrable. Language too strong for truth can hardly be used to describe the moral wrong of the act, but there is a just God, who keeps exact reckoning and never forgets.

Justice seems to require that I should refer to two other points. Back of all recent history are five centuries of bondage, when the Bulgarians were crushed down by their oppressors; the Greeks for their own supposed benefit were allowed to a great extent to destroy Bulgarian books and force the people to use the Greek language. The words of the highest Turkish military officer to the west of Constantinople, spoken to me personally and alone in Adrianople in 1877, when I went to him about the case of my Bulgarian agent who, when he was going among the villages, taking the oversight of the 440 oxen I had purchased with English funds and rented to the sufferers in 27 places was arrested and sent i nto exile, seem to me to ~~reflect~~ explain the conduct of the Turks toward the

Bulgarians. He said very plainly, "We do not wish to kill the Bulgarians, we want them for our laborers." The church forms, however lacking in real Christianity, and the mother tongue have wonderfully kept the nation united, and in all these centuries there must have been many who while chafing under their bondage, gloried in the deeds of their former capable kings. During the last century, especially its last half, restless spirits have been learning from other nations more of what freedom is--and among their own wild rugged and woody mountains have practised that freedom, preying upon their oppressors and among their own people helping those oppressors. While so doing they probably were not always careful, not to rob others. Though other nations might call them brigands, their own people regarded them as patriots. Thirty-five years ago, when I was explaining the Italian notation for singing to an elderly and very capable teacher in one of the very few schools then existing in Bulgaria, I asked him, "Where is your son?" He replied that he did not know, but the son was really then near Bucharest plotting against the Turks. His name Boteff, and that of one or two others are now spoken with gratitude all over Bulgaria. Though they perished, one on the gallows, they had endeared themselves to their nation, for which they had done much. Their likenesses are everywhere in positions of honor, in the homes of the people. They are so placed in the clubroom, where I eat with fifty-four of the students of our Collegiate Institute. Such is the light in which the nation now regards those working for the freedom of Macedonia--such the standard by which they judge of the right! Are they essentially worse than those who made Boston Harbor a tea-pot and rebelled against their Mother Country because of taxation without representation?

Responsibility of the Turkish Government.

A reference should be made to the charge that the Turkish government is responsible for the captivity of Miss Stone. I think it is so but---the United States with all their power and police and compact population has not been able to prevent injustice being done to the Italians and others, or even to guard the lives of its Presidents.

The Macedonian border is between 100 and 200 miles long, chiefly over a chain of rugged mountains, much of which is 2000 to 4000 or more feet high and most of the way covered with forests ten to thirty miles wide. I have crossed this range perhaps twenty times, on eight different routes, and there is probably not a mile of the length where it is not possible for footmen to pass over the border.

The Bulgarians are a capable people. The long captivity of Miss Stone and Mme. Tsilka, during all the efforts of the American government for their release, their taking so large a ransom almost before the eyes of the Turks, and spending three days in Turkish Djumaa in counting and weighing it, as a leader of the band said in the hearing of one who reported it to me, and many other things, prove the keen activity of the people. To effectually police and guard such a boundary would take half of all the Turkish army, and then the quick-footed, sharp-eyed Bulgarian of the mountains would easily slip by the slow moving Turk. While the United States cannot more perfectly protect all those within their borders, I should hardly dare to say that the Turks were responsible to pay back the ransom forced from ~~the~~ American ~~government~~ under such circumstances.

The question whether the Bulgarian government is in any degree responsible for the kidnapping of Miss Stone, may be difficult to answer. It hardly seems possible that a government in which there are so many officials who have come from Macedonia, should not take a deep interest in her welfare, and all that pertains to it. The fact that persons in Philippolis and Sofia knew of the plans before the capture, that at any time a means for communicating with the captors could be found in Sofia, and the fact that the collection of funds and their deposit in the bank was officially sanctioned, and other evidence secured, make it probable that individuals in the government had some responsibility in the case, if not the government as a whole. I have recently had occasion to call upon three Bulgarian governors, one of whom, years ago, I saved from hanging, when as a teacher he had taught his scholars a warlike hymn founded on Eph. 6:13-18. When asked to come to the full court of the Pasha, I simply said that our mission had published the hymn years before. Another governor was indignant at what he had heard said that the captors were Bulgarians from Bulgaria. Yet he plead that some foreigners would secure funds and aid those refugees still in Macedonia, whither no Bulgarian agents could go. He also earnestly said that Bulgaria would alone free Macedonia, if European powers did not prevent her. The third governor has in all the months of the captivity been watching to learn where the captives were held, and showed me his native shoes and belt of cartridges ready to start at a moment's notice with picked men, if he should learn of the locality. He once learned of a cave in this region, where a smaller inner fire in the back of the cave and another nearer the door or opening had been

made. He then thought the brigands had been there and made careful plans to arrest the brigands without harming the captives. He however freely said, "We know that they were Bulgarians from Bulgaria."

What should be done about it? Of this I have thought much. While the Macedonian bands have done much harm and the captors would almost universally be regarded by civilized nations as worthy of severe punishment, if not of death; while personally I have reasons for judging severely because after much toil and danger followed by sickness, when in 1876-9 spending over $40,000. English funds for Bulgarian sufferers in 1876-9; I was recently threatened with death if I did not give a considerable sum of money to the Macedonian Komitate; and because as I have recently learned it was first planned to take me for ransom, which plan was frustrated by my leaving the country on a furlough granted me months before, but which I had postponed till the completion of buildings which required my attention--yet because of the long continued injustice suffered by Macedonians, whose wives and daughters have often been so cruelly treated, I should incline to say that the United States should ~~not too rigidly press the right that the ransom of Miss Stone be returned, and the perpetrators punished, but that our government~~ now <u>at once</u> use all the influence possible to secure to Macedonia <u>at least</u> the autonomous government promised by the European powers.

Samokov Bulgaria J. F. Clarke
about Dec 20 1902

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Senator Pomerene
Short Speech

Rec'd DEC 19 1904
Ans'd DEC 20 1904

216

9 Crescent Ave., Chelsea,
Dec. I7, I904.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D.D.,
Foreign Secretary A. B. C. F. M.;-

In our very brief interview at the reception at the Vendome, last Thursday, I had not time to ask you the question which I wished to ask you, namely, whether it would be quite impossible that President Angell of Ann Arbor, Mich., might again be eligible for a special service at Constantinople? I cannot forget how earnestly he said to me, at Oberlin, in October, I902:- "I wish I were in Constantinople now; I would like to have the settlement of your case."

Surely President Angell did not feel as someone represents President Roosevelt and Secretary Hay as feeling, according to a statement which appeared in the Boston Advertiser of Dec.I6. Lest you may not have it at hand, I enclose a copy of it, and also of the editorial upon it.

Then I will ask the favor of you, Dr. Barton, and I ask it most earnestly, that you will kindly tell me what you and the American Board know concerning this statement and its preparation. So much is said in it of " a close friend of Miss Stone's," and of "intimate friends of Miss Stone's told in confidence," etc., that even a very casual reader must wonder what kind of closeness and what kind of intimacy of friendship that can be, which has kept such knowledge from her whom it most concerns, - as it is clearly stated that it has been kept, when the closing sentence says: - "Mis Stone has not yet been informed of Sec. Hay's hopeless view." She was but two miles distant from any one in Boston, and was easily accessible

at any time.

Not knowing when you would return from New York, I have taken the ~~li~~ liberty to write, and await an early reply, by your kindness.

Very truly yours,

Ellen M. Stone

ELLEN STONE'S CLAIM WILL NOT BE PAID

SEC. HAY TELLS BOSTON MEN THE CASE IS HOPELESS.

Nothing More Will Be Done, but Miss Stone May Go Back to Turkey Whenever She Wishes.

Neither Pres. Roosevelt nor Sec. Hay will take further action in the matter of Miss Ellen Stone's claim for indemnity against the Turkish government.

The state department regards the claim as futile and therefore considers the question closed. Sec. Hay has so informed a close friend of Miss Stone's.

There has been no official promulgation of this decision because it would not look well for the United States government to drop any claim against Turkey.

However, intimate friends of Miss Stone have been told in confidence both by Pres. Roosevelt and by Sec. Hay that it is useless to expect any further development. In fact, both have admitted that they personally doubt the validity of the indemnity claim.

Not one of the missionary organizations, which have representatives in the district in which Miss Stone worked, has endorsed her petition. The American Board, which has its offices in this city, has not.

It is held by the administration that the Turkish government is in part justified in refusing to recognize any claim for indemnity; because the $80,000 ransom was paid and no questions asked.

In addition, Turkey maintains that the abduction by the brigands took place on Bulgarian soil, and by Bulgarian subjects. Whatever may the suspicions to the contrary, no power, not even Russia, could prove otherwise.

Miss Stone was abducted three years ago, by Bulgarian brigands. She was held for ransom, which was raised by popular subscription.

The money was paid rather against the advice of the Boston missionary leaders and many U. S. officials.

Miss Stone, who lives at 24 Carr ave., Chelsea, has temporarily left the mission field to remain with an invalid mother. She has not yet been informed of Sec. Hay's hopeless view of her case.

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$65,000

The place is well known, it is in Turkey, miles from any frontier.

THE STONE CASE

So the claim of Ellen Stone, the missionary from Chelsea who was kidnapped by Bulgarian brigands, is considered hopeless by Sec. Hay. The secretary did his best to get some money from Turkey, on this claim, but it looked hopeless from the beginning. The American board, which from the beginning refused to put itself on record as standing with Miss Stone in this demand, had a clearer idea of the outlook. The United States has some other claims against Turkey that may be paid, some day; and probably Sec. Hay thought that was all the more reason why he should not waste too much time on a demand which he could not prove to be sound in international law. We never pretended to believe that the United States could collect this money—even when it was given out at Washington that the administration was going to make a record on this case; and it looks now as if Sec. Hay had come to the conclusion that the best thing under the circumstances would be to let the whole matter drop.

When Miss Stone went into that part of Macedonia that was terrorized by brigands, she took her chances. It may be supposed that she knew the risks as well as anybody could. It is an old principle of common law that one who goes into danger with eyes open has no claim for damages if hurt follows. That is precisely why the American board would not stand for the damage claim. If a war correspondent in front of Port Arthur should get killed by either a Russian or Japanese shell during the fighting, Sec. Hay would not think of laying a claim for indemnity. Of course some European nations have bullied China into paying for assaults on missionaries; but what has been done to China and what would be honest are very different things. Miss Stone will probably go back as a missionary when her family affairs allow; and in a few years her case will be forgotten. But the rule that the American missionary board has adopted, not to claim indemnity in such cases, will stand for all time. It is the one sensible way of treating such cases.

A.D. Macedonia

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at any time.

Not knowing when you would return from New York, I have taken the li
liberty to write, and await an early reply, by your kindness.

Very truly yours,

Ellen M. Stone -
Case with U.S. Govt
June 1908

copy

217

157 Chestnut St.,
Chelsea, Mass.,
June 19, 1907.

Hon. Elihu Root,
Secretary of State for the United States of America,
Washington, D.C.; -

Mr. Secretary; -

In response to your esteemed note of May 8, I beg to inform you that I am in receipt of a letter bearing date of June 3, from Mr. Robert W. Graves, C.M.G., British Consul-General at Salonica, Turkey in Europe, from which I make the following quotation: - "The statement made in the Associated Press that the British Government claims from the Turkish Government repayment of the sum of 15,000 Turkish Liras paid for the ransom of Robert Abbott of Salonica, is correct. The claim has been made officially in writing, by the British Ambassador at Constantinople, and I believe that the Porte has replied in writing declining to admit its responsibility for the payment, though I have as yet received no official intimation of the latter fact. Negotiations have not gotten beyond this point."

As I have been informed, the Porte made the same denial of responsibility for my capture, which it now makes in the case of young Abbott; but I am persuaded that neither the United States nor Great Britain will end negotiations with this denial. It is too clear that responsibility must rest upon the government of the country where such outrages against the right of personal safety are so frequent. I do not forget that the Associated Press also stated that indemnity is asked by the Netherlands, on account of the capture last month of a Dutch baron near Smyrna.

At thereception which was extended to me in Park St. Church, Bos-

ton, by the American Board and the Woman's Board of Mission, soon after my return home, in April, 1902, where messages were read from President Roosevelt, the late Secretary Hay, and Governor Crane, - the President of the American Board, Hon. S.B.Capen, LL.D., said; - "The American merchant and the American missionary must be protected. Men must be safe everywhere under the stars and stripes. We have in President Roosevelt a man of God, who is interested in these things, and will never rest, we believe, until this wrong is righted. The thought is not to be tolerated for an instant that this captivity, ending in this release, is to be a closed incident. The ransom money must be returned, and the stealing of human life must cease. This captivity in the providence of God, will work out a larger liberty."

Has not the time come, Mr. Secretary, when this prophesy shall be verified, so far as the United States is concerned? "The stealing of human life" in Turkey is not stopped, as is proved by the capture, during recent months, of the British and Dutch subjects above referred to. I was wearing a small American flag when captured, and had in my pocket then and during the terrible months which followed, my United States passport and Turkish teskèrè. The brigands cared neither for the one nor for the other, in that land whose government has no law which is a terror to evil-doers.

I repeat the words of Dr. Capen: - "The thought is not to be tolerated for an instant that this captivity is a closed incident," - and look to you, Mr. Secretary, as the head of the Department of State of my nation, to secure from the Ottoman Government satisfactory settlement of my case. I ask not for myself alone, nor aimed for the re-imbursement of those who so nobly gave their money to save me, but for the honor of my nation in the eyes of the Imperial Ottoman Power, and to ensure as great a degree of safety for American lives there as everywhere else in the world.

With profound respect and esteem, I remain

Your obedient,

(Signed) Ellen M. Stone

I57Chestnut St., Chelsea, 218

June 20, I907?

Hon. S. B. Capen, LL.D.,

President of the American Board; -

My dear Mr. Capen; -

I was not sure whether you understood what was in my mind, when I asked you, at the reception to the new missionaries, given by Mr. Wilder, as you were speaking of the good news from Constantinople, in Mr. Peet's letter, + if in your opinion the time were not now ready for settling other matters with the Porte. Of course I had reference to a demand for satisfaction, and repayment of the ransom paid for my release from captivity.

Dr. Barton always told me that the matter was not pressed immediately after my return home, because of the two contentions with the Porte, which our Government was already pressing, before I was released. Now that these are both settled, surely it must be time that attention were given to the outrage committed against me, as an American subject, - and the matter pressed to a satisfactory conclusion.

I have the assurance of a British consul general, that Great Britain has made a formal demand in writing through her Ambassador in Constantinople, for repayment of the I5, 000 Turkish Liras, which were paid for the ransom of young Abbott of Salonica, two or three months since.

May I quote to you your own words, Dr. Capen, spoken at the welcome which was given to me in Park St. Church, in April I902? The Congregationalist reported them: "Brigandage must cease. American lives must no more be placed in jeopardy. The American merchant and the American missionary must be protected. Men must be safe everywhere

under the Stars and Stripes. We have in President Roosevelt a man of God who is interested in these things, and who will never rest, we believe, until this wrong is righted. The thought is not to be tolerated for an instant that this captivity, ending in this release, is to be a closed incident. The ransom money must be returned, and the stealing of human lives must cease. This captivity in the providence of God, will work out a larger liberty." Noble words! May they soon be proved to have been truly prophetic!

The date of my capture ante-dated that of young Abbott's by more than five years. If I understood Dr. Barton aright, he told me that our Government had twice filed a notification, or perhaps more properly, a memorandum, with the Porte, of my case, and that it should bring it up at such time as it saw fit. Could any time be more fitting than now when Great Britain, as I know, and the Netherlands also, upon the authority of the Associated Press, have similar claims before the Porte for the repayment of moneys paid for the ransom of two of their subjects, - for our Government to press its older claim for satisfaction in a case which continued almost half a year, had an American woman as the captive, with a Macedonian woman as her companion, who while a captive became a mother, and a helpless baby's sufferings were added to those of the women captives, for the last seven weeks before release? It is no wonder that the attention of the world was to so great a degree, turned to this case. The sympathy, prayers, and money, of a nation were drawn upon to secure my release.

Each other captive of these recent years, Perdicaris, Abbott, and the Dutch baron, were prisoners for a much less time than I, and were either wealthy themselves, and paid their own ransoms, or were of wealthy families, who speedily ransomed them; whereas I was saved by the response of the nation to my family's appeal, when they had done all that w[illegible]

all that was possible to them. These are additional reasons why my case should be settled by our Government, with the Ottoman Government, and settled as speedily as possible.

The Secretaries of the Board, perhaps the President also, went to Washington, I have been told, to advise upon the course to be pursued to secure my release. Doubtless a communication from the Board, relative to pushing the matter of a settlement with Turkey, would be helpful to the State Department; unless indeed such a communication has already been sent.

Again quoting to you your words, President Capen, which exactly express the sentiment of my heart: - "The thought is not to be tolerated for an instant that this captivity, ending in this release, is to be a closed incident," - I remain in hope of speedy and full justice,

Yours most sincerely,

Ellen M. Stone.

Copy.

319

157 Chestnut Street,
Chelsea, Mass., U.S.A.,
July 8, 1907.

Mr. Robert W. Graves, C.M.G.,
H.B.M.Consul-General, Salonica, Turkey in Europe; -

My dear Consul Graves; -

Having now read, by the kindness of Robert Abbott's former governess, Miss Martin, at present in England, - his account in the London Graphic of May 25, "How I Was Captured by Brigands?" and the thanks which he there expresses for the tact and energy with which you acted on his behalf, - I want to add my congratulations to those which have already rained upon you.

I was never even tempted to wish myself a citizen of any other country than my own, until I had long been a captive. Then when I was cut off completely from the world for so long a time, and when negotiations were so protracted, and our sufferings were so great, I did wish sometimes that I had been a British subject. I have been guilty of the same disloyalty, if such it seem to you, since I have been free, and my case has not been settled yet.

This feeling in me is not disloyalty, but only a regret that my young country has been and is under the disadvantage of its lack of experience in such matters. It has no precedent in its own history, to guide it in this case.

I know from Dr. House that the United States Vice-Consul, Mr. Hadji Lazzaro's advice for the conduct of my case, at the very outset, was sound, and had it been followed, I might have been released months earlier than I was.

Congratulating you upon your success in Robert Abbott's case, I remain

Yours most sincerely,

157 Chestnut Street,

Chelsea, Mass., U.S.A.,

July 8, 1907.

Mr. Robert W. Graves, C.M.G.,

H.B.M.Consul-General, Salonica, Turkey in Europe; -

My dear Consul Graves; -

Having now read, by the kindness of Robert Abbott's former governess, Miss Martin, the pamphlet in Turkish, - I assume it is the London pamphlet of May 25, "How I Was Captured by Turkish Brigands" - a title which he there explains from his 'not and enemy which was placed on his behalf', - I wish to add my congratulations to those which have already reached you from me.

I was never more [illegible] than I was [illegible] my own country [illegible] .

When I was cut off completely from the world for so long a time, and when negotiations were so protracted, and our sufferings were so great, I did wish sometimes that I had been a British subject. I may be guilty of the same disloyalty, if such it seem to you, since I have been free, and my case has not been settled yet.

This feeling in me is not disloyalty, but only a regret that my young country has been and is under the disadvantage of its lack of experience in such matters. It has no precedent in its own history, to guide it in this case.

I know from Dr. Howe that the United States Vice-Consul, Mr. Hadji Lazaro's advice for the conduct of my case, at the very outset, was sound, and had it been followed, I might have been released months earlier than I was.

Congratulating you upon your success in Robert Abbott's case, I remain

Yours most sincerely,

Copy.

220

167 Chestnut St.,

Chelsea, Mass.,

Sept. 6, 1907.

To His Excellency,

Hon. John G. A. Leishman,

American Ambassador to the Porte,

Constantinople, Turkey; -

My Dear Ambassador Leishman; -

I thank you for your very kind expressions of interest in me personally, contained in your letter of July 24, and marked "Private and Confidential." I must, however, express my great surprise at certain points which you therein make.

Pardon me if I suggest that for a moment you change your point of view. Just suppose that a sister or a daughter of yours had been traveling as I was traveling, anywhere in Turkey, in city or country, been made a captive, and kept under constant threats of death for almost six months, until you and your agonized friends and sympathizers had paid $5,000., and procured her release; what would you have thought of the government which suggested passing the case over as trivial, or that it was "impolitic and inexpedient even to present" a claim for satisfaction for the outrage against your loved one? Which further allowed the Porte to pronounce her a persona non grata in that Empire, and thus made her the scape-goat of the affair, instead of insisting that she was the injured party?

Your Excellency will pardon the question. Our way of looking at a matter determines in some measure our judgment concerning it.

I have waited in comparative silence until you secured the concession of the principle of the rights for our American institutions, as it was represented to me that if I should do so, it would be for

~~for~~ the larger good. Now I make my claim that the time has fully come when satisfaction should be asked and secured for the captivity which I suffered in Macedonia, Turkey in Europe, Sept.3, 1901 - Feb. 23, 1902, from the ~~long~~ consequences of which I still suffer, from the long period necessary to recuperate, and the long absence from my work. At the same time those who gave the money which saved my life, suffer from the lack of that money, the interest of which even at savings banks rates, amounts to almost one-fourth of their original gift. I have no power to consent to the sacrifice of those who saved my life, nor have I any wish to do so. The rights of the case seem to me to be too clear.

Your Excellency's statement "while it is possible that the British Government may depart from its usual practise in lodging a claim for the ransom paid for Abbott," was so opposed to my understanding of the course of Great Britain in such cases, that I asked the opinion of one of the most trusted and honored of British statesmen to-day, upon this point. His answer fully confirms what I was repeatedly told by H.B.M.Consul-General in Salonica, Mr. George Blunt, during the years of my residence in Turkey, and before that during my many missionary journeys thither. Mr. Blunt, who was later Consul in Boston, Mass., had an experience covering forty years as British Consul in Asiatic and European Turkey. He always told us that it is the custom of Great Britain to demand repayment of the ransom paid to redeem its subjects who have been made captive. I quote the answer graciously made by the British authority to whom I addressed my question: - " I should think that Great Britain was following the regular practice in requiring that the Turkish Government should pay the ransom extorted by the brigands who seized Mr. Abbott. Every Government is supposed to be bound to protect foreign persons traveling in its territories, and if they are seized by robbers who defy the Government, and compell pay-

ment of ransom by threats of murder, that is the fault of the Government which fails to protect the traveling foreigner, and the Government ought to pay what he has been forced by violence to pay."

I had learned from a British Consul-General in Turkey, and from the Secretary of our Legation at the Hague, that the case of the Dutch Baron Van Heemstra was as you say radically different from mine. I quote from my British Consular informant: "Shortly before his capture, he had refused protection offered by the Turkish Government in the shape of a detachment of soldiers to guard the farm where he lived." He also tells me of the recovery of part of the ransom money through the capture of "the brigand-chief who took him, and one of his lieutenants."

On the point that it would seem "unfair to force the Turkish Government to place foreigners upon a more favored basis than its own subjects," allow me to inquire if this is not exactly what is done by all enlightened nations in dealing with governments less enlightened and progressive than themselves? The subjects of Morocco are not ordered from their homes, for greater protection, during these days, but the foreigners are so ordered. The British authority of great wisdom and experience, whose opinion I quoted on the previous page and this, has answered that point conclusively, as it seems to me.

I trust that my spirit is ready to make any "sacrifice" which it is rightfully called upon to make; but with reference to my captivity I feel there is no place for sacrifice on my part. It seems to me that it would be cowardly on my part to entertain any other spirit than that which fills me now as it has possessed me since the moment of the outrageous infringement by those Macedonian brigands, of my rights to free and safe traveling in the Ottoman domains, which were guaranteed by the Government's official teskere, which I carried with my American passport. As to the point that I was in a mountainous region close to

the frontier of a foreign state, and where the actual presence of armed bands was well known," - allow me to reply that with my party I had just passed a Turkish guard-house, where we had stopped and asked for a drink of water and given baksheeh, that they might remember that a foreign lady with her party had passed by. Where were they when a revolver shot rang out, fired by the unfortunate man who followed us next upon the road, too closely to suit the plans of the brigands who were then sweeping us away over a neighboring height, - and whom they murdered before the eyes of my party? Where were those who should have maintained better security in "the residence quarter of a large city?" The principle is the same: government protection is assured to every one to whom it is granted, wherever he is.

Permit me to say also, Mr. Ambassador, that you are misinformed in your statement that "the actual presence of armed bands was well known." We had heard rumors of irregularities and encounters between Turkish troops and armed men, in southern and western Macedonia, but believed that the northern section was quiet. Every part of Turkey is unsafe at any time. The non-Moslem peasants who must go over the five or six miles of open plain intervening between Bansko where they live and Mehomia (Razlogue) the seat of the Turkish Government for that section, - to secure indispensable papers for their business, were accustomed even in the most normal and peaceful times, especially when standing grain offered a hiding-place for villains, - to leave every valuable at home, and wear their oldest clothes, that there should be nothing to tempt the cupidity of Turkish soldiers who might spring out upon them, and take their lives upon the least hesitation to comply with their demands. The soldiers were of course armed; the peasants never, in those days. This was the region where I was with my class, and it was as safe as any part of Turkey, except in the large cities. We Americans traveled, always with a degree of apprehensiveness it is true, but relying upon the fact that we were foreigners, with a government behind us, whose relations with the Ottoman Power assured us protection.

Once more as to your point that "the actual presence of armed bands was well known" in the region to which I went and to which I called my class to meet me. If this were the fact, is it conceivable that I would have bidden the young women who composed the class, to travel in such a region? Is it conceivable that I would myself have made a two days' journey beyond Strumitsa with two of them, with only two muleteers to protect us? Or again, is it conceivable that Dr. House, our senior missionary, who would have gone himself into the same region on a missionary tour, had I not gone, - would most strongly have advised the holding of my summer-training class, which was the reason for my leaving Salonica? On this point you have been misled. The country there was supposed by us to be in normal conditions.

I understand your letter to ask me to cease pressing my claim for repayment of the ransom paid for me, on the ground "that the best interests of our institutions in Turkey would not be advanced by putting forward such a claim." Permit me to say that in the United States many hold a distinctly different opinion. I am inclined to believe that the majority of those who have formed an opinion with care upon this case, think differently. I speak thus with full respect for your position, Mr. Ambassador, as affording the best opportunity to form a judgment, yet I am judging by what has been said to me by multitudes, during the more than five years since I have been in the United States, among them your predecessor, President Angell of Ann Arbor University, whose first words to me were: "Would I not like to be in Constantinople now to have the settlement of your case!" He had no doubt what settlement should be made.

I must protest that it is not I, Your Excellency, who is being sacrificed by the delay of five years and more, in the settlement of my case. The brigands made it impossible for me to do anything for myself, save to write what they dictated, when they ordered. Of course I could not put a dollar into my ransom. I have no right to sacrifice thoes who gave, under the Government's pledge to requite them, - the money which saved my life. A copy of the letter containing this assurance from the State Department, dated Oct.3, 1901, lies before me. Some of the givers to my ransom have been put to very serious inconvenience, during the long time of waiting. I can find in my consciousness no authorization for consenting to anything but the fulfillment of the pledge made by our Government before the appeal of my family was published, which brought the people's response of help to raise the £25,000. then demanded by the brigands. This is for simple justice, aside from considerations of the maintenance of our national name and prestige before the Sublime Porte and the world..

Most certainly "the matter is one which rests with the Government

at Washington," and I have done what is possible to me to keep it before the State Department. You have now told me what I have not before known, that your report upon the case was unfavorable to its prosecution; but I most sincerely hope that you will now reconsider this opinion, if you have not already done so, and make a report which will secure justice for our nation and for me who suffered such injustice at the hands of desperadoes in Turkey.

I thank you, my dear Ambassador Leishman, for your very kind assurances of sympathy with me personally, which I have never doubted. I must ask, however, that that shall be done before the Sublime Porte with reference to my case, which will be just and for the largest good, even though it may not seem politic and expedient.

I have written to you with entire frankness. No one can regret my capture as I regret it, but it took place, and must be atoned for. In the end I am sure that firmness in the settlement of this case, which attracted to a large degree the attention of the world, will result in the largest good to the greatest number in Turkey, and receive the approbation of all deep thinkers, who are conversant with international problems.

Once more, hoping for you the largest success in the representation of American affairs before the Imerial Ottoman Government, - of which my case is one, I remain

Very truly yours in hope,

(Signed) Ellen M. Stone.

at Washington," and I have done what is possible to me to keep it before the State Department. You have now told me what I have not before known, that your report upon the case was unfavorable to its prosecution; but I most sincerely hope that you will now reconsider this opinion, if you have not already done so, and make a report which will secure justice for our nation and for me who suffered such injustice at the hands of desperadoes in Turkey.

I thank you, my dear Ambassador Leishman, for your very kind assurance of sympathy with me personally, which I have never doubted. I must ask, however, that that small be done before the sublime Porte with reference to my case, which will be just and for the largest good, even though it may not seem politic and expedient.

I have written to you with entire frankness. No one can regret my capture and imprisonment in, sure it is, a just cause, and must be adored for. In the end I am sure it will turn to a lesson to this case, which a treated to a large degree the attention of the world, will result in the largest good to the greatest number in Turkey, and receive the approbation of all deep thinkers, who are conversant with international problems.

Once more, hoping for you the largest success in the representation of American affairs before the Imperial Ottoman Government, - of which my case is one, I remain

Very truly yours in hope,

(Signed) Ellen M. Stone.

Copy 2 -

221

157 Chestnut St.,

Chelsea, Mass.,

Sept. 14, 1907.

Hon. Elihu Root,

Secretary of State for the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.; -

Mr. Secretary; -

Before replying to Ambassador Leishman's last letter to me, I waited to receive the confirmation which came a few days since, from the Secretary of the American Legation at the Hague, - to the explanation which had previously reached me from a British Consul-General, before Ambassador Leishman's letter told me the same thing, viz.: - that the case of Baron Van Heemstra differs radically from my case and that of young Abbott of Salonica, Turkey.

Were not the Ambassador's letter marked "Private and Confidential," I would send you a copy, for it seems to me a surprising document to have been written by the representative of the United States to the Porte, concerning a case which is so clear and so well known as mine is. I am enclosing to you a copy of my answer, and respectfully ask your attention to it.

Whoever supposed that so long a time would intervene between my release and a movement to re-imburse those who made my freedom possible? You have had abundant evidence, Mr. Secretary, that I was not consenting to this delay, but was persuaded to await the settlement of the two contentions which the United States Government had pending with the Porte, at the time of my release and return home. When these were settled, and I congratulated our Ambassador upon his success, and

expressed the hope that he would now effect a speedy settlement of my case, - of course by direction of the Department of State at Washington (I enclose a copy of that letter also), - I was met by his avowal "that the result of my investigations after your rescue forced me to inform the Department in my conclusions that it would be both impolitic and inexpedient even to present such a claim." That was wholly unexpected, and astounded me; but I cannot let the matter rest here, for I am not the only one to be considered. The honor of my nation before the Ottoman Empire and the world comes first. Then the standing and safety of American citizens in that Empire, how they are defended when unjustly treated there. And, third, the expectation of hundreds, nay thousands who gave their money for my ransom, and for the countless multitudes in many lands, who gave their sympathy and their prayers; - that justice will be required by my Government on my behalf.

The facts are fully before you, in my several previous communications which are in your hands, Mr. Secretary, I trust that Ambassador Leishman is the man to keep clearly before him a high standard of the prerogatives of the Government which he represents before the Porte, and of its citizens whom he is set to defend when their rights are infringed, in the Ottoman Empire.

The Government must of course decide whether adequate reasons exist to decide it to ignore the plain justice of my case, and the precedents followed by European Powers in similar instances, and which Great Britain is now following in the case of Robert Abbott, - and substitute expediency. I must believe that for its own sake and for the sake of its subjects residing or traveling in the Ottoman Empire, it will demand full restitution for my captivity, - so far as restitution for such an outrage is possible, - and place itself by the side of Great Britain, in demanding that such outrages against its subjects in Turkey shall cease, or be heavily atoned for, if one occur.

In case the Government should decide to follow the judgment of Ambassador Leishman, and feels compelled to substitute expediency for justice, I must claim the fulfilment of the pledge of the State Department in its dispatch of Oct. 3, 1901, from Secretary Adee to the late Dr. Judson Smith of the American Board, - to do everything in its power to re-imburse those who gave the ransom. A copy of that dispatch lies before me. I must believe, however, that if America follows the example of Great Britain, and these two great powers stand together in demanding reparation for the high-handed outrages upon their respective subjects, which were perpetrated against me in 1901-'02, and Britain's subject, Mr. Abbott, last spring, - the outcome will be satisfactory to both, and conducive to greater safety to life and property in the Ottoman Empire.

I appeal to you, Mr. Secretary, to institute measures which will settle as speedily as possible, this long-standing case. I am persuaded that the measures which you will choose will determine it in accordance with the principles of national honor and national rights, and with full recognition of the prerogatives of the individual subject of the United States.

With great esteem and confidence, I remain

Yours most sincerely,

Ellen M. Stone

In case the Government should decide to follow the judgment of Ambassador Leishman, and feels compelled to substitute expediency for justice, I must claim the fulfilment of the pledge of the State Department in its dispatch of Oct. 3, 1901, from Secretary Adee to the late Dr. Judson Smith of the American Board, - to do everything in its power to re-instate those who gave the reason. A copy of that dispatch lies before me. I must believe, however, that if America follows the example of Great Britain, and turns her great power around hereafter in behalf of the oppressed - instead of against them - or, in comparative seclusion, which -even if dignified - is in fact, "Good enough for us", Mr. Adams, last spring, - the outcome will be satisfactory to me, and correct. [illegible] Life and property in "No Ottoman" [illegible].

I [illegible],

[illegible] as speedily [illegible]. In [illegible]. I [illegible] recommend that [illegible] when [illegible] will [illegible] in accordance with the principles of [illegible] honor and national rights, and with full recognition of the prerogatives of the individual subject of the United States.

With great esteem and confidence, I remain

Yours most sincerely,

Copy.

222

157 Chestnut St.,
Chelsea, Mass.,
Sept. 14, 1907.

To His Excellency,
Hon. John G. A. Leishman,
American Ambassador to the Porte,
Constantinople, Turkey; -

My Dear Ambassador Leishman; -

It has occurred to me that in dispatching my letter of last Saturday a little hurriedly, as I was leaving home for a short journey, - some clerical errors may have remained uncorrected, and one not exactly worded sentence went unobserved.

In the second paragraph on the first page, the amount of my ransom you know to have been $65,000., not $45,000. In the second paragraph on page 6, I speak of "the Government's pledge to requite them," and quote it as from a "letter." It was a dispatch, I am told, and the expression should have read instead of "the Government's pledge to requite them," which it could not make, as I understand; - the Government's pledge to make every effort to obtain re-imbursement, or failing in that, to urge another line of action, to repay Miss Stone's friends. The £25,000. in the second paragraph of page 6 were of course pounds.

Hoping that you are in good stregth of body, mind, and soul, for your work this autumn, I remain, my dear Ambassador Leishman,

Yours ever gratefully, for the past and hopefully for the future,

(Signed) Ellen M. Stone.

157 Chestnut St.,

Chelsea, Mass.,

Sept. 14, 1907.

Hon. Theodore Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America; -

Mr. President; -

Although keenly mindful of the great pressure of business upon you, I yet take the liberty to transmit the enclosed papers for the State Department, through your hands, asking that you, who are so zealous for the good of all your people, will not refuse them a reading, nor withhold your potent influence from the appeal which my captivity makes for righteous settlement, demanded by my Government from that of the Ottoman Power, which failed to protect me, an American, living and traveling in its territory.

Wishing for you God's blessing continually in administering the affairs of our great nation, I remain

Yours in hope,

(Signed) Ellen M. Stone.

Religious News from the World-Wide Field

BULGARIAN MISSION WORK.

This Time the Plea Is for the Strangers in Our Own Land.

By Miss Ellen M. Stone.

AMONG the hosts of immigrants to our shores from the East have been an increasing number of Bulgarians from poor, oppressed Macedonia and also from the free, prosperous province of Bulgaria. It is estimated that twenty-five thousand are already here. These have been scattered through the length and breadth of our land, and are found in Alabama as well as in Dakota; in New Mexico as well as in Massachusetts. Among them are many who became Christians in connection with American missionary work in their provinces, and who become valuable members of society in our country, beside being good workmen.

While the missionaries, in common with all lovers of the highest development of the Balkan States, deeply regret this exodus of trained Christians, who are needed in their native land more than they can be needed elsewhere in the world, the fact remains that they come hither. More than one important church in the Balkans is pastorless because its pastor is ministering to some church in the United States! Bulgarian students are here in great numbers, but Bulgarian artisans, electricians, draughtsmen, editors, physicians, lawyers, etc., are also here, to the great loss of their own country.

The director of the Collegiate and Theological Institute at Samokov, Bulgaria, the Rev. L. F. Ostrander, writes on this subject: "Our school is doing to a considerable extent what might be called home missionary work for America. We read a great deal about the immigration problem and what is to be done with the foreigners who come to America. Bulgaria is doing her part in swelling the stream flowing into the United States. A recent paper states that three hundred villagers from the region of Turnovo had passed through Sophia, bound for America. The fever is found among the students of our school. During the five years that we have been here thirty-three who have been in the school have gone to the United States and are there now. I know positively about so many, and there may be others. We try to oppose and discourage this movement as much as we can, but it is very hard to resist it. The boys who have been under the influence of our school will be more fit to become desirable American citizens in a short space of time than those who have not been with us. Many of them go from us professed and positive Christians. So we are in a way working directly for America, even though five thousand miles away from her shores."

This is another side of missionary work, the "bread cast upon the waters," returning "after many days;" but, after all, it were better for the advancement of the Kingdom of God in the Balkans if these Bulgarian Christian educated young men had remained and done their work at home. We trust the end will prove that they have not despised their birthright.

A late number of The Rabotnik, a Bulgarian paper published weekly in New York, mentions that the Holy Synod, which is the highest ecclesiastical authority in Bulgaria, has been giving attention to the unshepherded Slavic flock in some parts of the United States, and has voted to send priests of the Greek Church to them, if suitable ones can be found, who are acquainted with the English language. The Holy Synod also voted to send Bulgarian teachers from the home land if the same essential qualification can be found in them to teach the illiterate Slavic element in our country and also to keep them true to the faith of their fathers.

It would seem to be a more common sense way to deal with this problem of Slavic illiteracy in the United States to designate some of the Bulgarians who are already here, after completing their education to a good degree in their own land and who are at home in both their native tongue and the English, to become the instructors of their less educated countrymen. It were well for our home missionary workers to look up our Slavic population. There are valuable assets in it and others which may easily become more valuable. Not a little missionary money, labor and prayer have already been expended upon it by the European Turkey Mission of the American Board, and now the home workers may enter into these labors.

From a recent issue of The Boston Transcript these facts are gleaned:

The occasional enthusiastic patriotic convocations which the several hundred Albanians resident in Boston hold serve to remind us of representatives of that valiant race that dwells in ancient Illyricum on the eastern shore of the Adriatic. They are a people ever yearning for freedom, notwithstanding they have been for five centuries subject to Turkey, and our churches in this country need to bring to bear upon these eager, ambitious young men influences that will make them ultimately of real service to their native land, whose woes rest so heavily upon them that they have been disposed to carry their case to The Hague Conference.

There are said to be ten thousand already in America, found principally in cities and towns from Boston to Buffalo. It is to the credit of a church in Jamestown, N. Y., that through a devoted attorney in its membership a number of the two hundred resident Albanians have been gathered into the Sunday-school and made to feel the warmth of a Christian welcome. The church set apart two pews especially for them and induced Professor Steiner, of Iowa College, to give them sound advice touching the advancing of their national interests through proving that they were men of character and ability. A church in this region which has also ministered effectively to the Albanians is the Congregational Church in Natick. It is plain that America has a large part to play in relation to these young Albanian patriots.

There is also an imperative demand for the carrying on of missionary work in Albania on a scale commensurate with the opportunity. Among the 2,000,000 Albanians the only evangelical preacher at present is Mr. Tsilka, whose wife, it will be remembered, was a fellow-captive with Miss Ellen M. Stone, and ransomed at the same time. She is a trained nurse, and two or three other lay workers are devoting themselves with rare consecration to their task, but they are overwhelmed with the opportunities pressing upon them

Chelsea, Mass.

New York Observer

Ellen M. Stone

Sept. 19 1907.

Oct. 5-1907

Dear Dr. Barton;-

I have the enclosed duplicates of papers which I have written upon my case with our Government, asking satisfaction from the Porte for my captivity in Turkey, Macedonia, 1901-'02, which I place in your hands.

I am grateful to you for your readiness to institute inquiries with the State Department, at once, I hope,-

inasmuch as your absence from the country necessitated so long a shelving of the matter, so far as the action of the American Board was concerned.

This is just in the line with President Angell's thought that "the Officers of the Board, who not infrequently have occasion to confer with the Secretary of State,

are the ones best fitted to confer with him." Of course he means, beside the one who endured captivity, and who still has much trouble of mind to endure because of the slow grinding of "the mills of the gods."

Grateful for your sympathy, I remain

Yours sincerely,

Ellen M. Stone.

Chelsea, Oct. 5, 1907.

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Private and
Confidential.

Read Board
15 personal

157 Chestnut Street,

Chelsea, Mass.,

Jan. 8, 1908.

Rev. James L. Barton, D.D.,

Cor. Secretary of the American Board: -

Dear Dr. Barton: -

I wonder if the copies of my latest letters from Senator Lodge, which I enclose, will give you any explanation of the silence of the State Department toward your interrogation of it, as to the status of my case. I enclose to you also a copy of my answer to Senator Lodge's last word.

Inasmuch as the pledge of the State Department, which I herein ask to have fulfilled, was sent through the late Secretary Smith of the American Board, would the Prudential Committee be willing to unite with me in asking the Department, in accordance with its own voluntary proposal, to urge Congress to make financial re-imbursement to the givers of my ransom? I would be glad of your opinion upon this point. I understand that Messrs. Kidder, Peabody & Co., gave a copy of this paper to my brother, Mr. C. A. Stone.

As to Ambassador Leishman's representations, which have led the State Department to come to its not-to-be-expected decision, it must be borne in mind that neither any member of your Board, I suppose, and certainly not I, knows even a word of what was contained in his despatches, or said in his personal interviews. Is this the justice to be looked for from the United States Government, with President Roosevelt at its head?

I have the fullest confidence that our rulers intend to be just, but they have been inexplicably influenced to treat my case in a way which makes me keenly conscious that the sorrows of my captivity did not end with my release by the desperadoes of Macedonia. Should Con-

gress provide for the re-payment of the ransom money, it would doubtless be best that it go through Messrs. Kidder, Peabody & Co., for return to the givers, as they were the custodians of the Fund.

Kindly treat this matter as entirely confidential to yourself and such officers of the Board as may need to take action with referenc to it; these papers also.

An expression of yours, Dr. Barton, recurs to my mind. When writing to me at about the time of the reported assassination of Boris Sarafoff and a companion of his, you said that I must be especially interested in the news. I was interested just as all Americans who have lived and worked in our Mission, are interested in everything concerning the countries which form the field of our Mission. I had no knowledge of Sarafoff beyond what any reader of the public press has, and never saw him, that I am aware of. I have no reason to connect him in any way with my captivity, so far as any knowledge of mine goes, nor do I understand on what ground the newspapers made their assertions that he was the author or one of the authors of the plot to capture an American missionary. Of his companion, I had not even heard.

Hoping that you and your family are prospering and enjoying at least comfortable health, this New Year, I remain

Yours very truly,

Ellen M. Stone.

Chelsea Naval
Aug 8 1908

Letter No. 2

Personal. (Copy). 227

United States Senate.

December 13, 1907.

My dear Miss Stone:

I have had two talks with Mr. Leishman. He is strongly opposed to making any ~~demand~~ movement toward the payment of that claim, and promised to give me his reasons in writing so that I could submit them to you. Besides the general reasons which have been already stated in his despatches to the State Department, and which are of a public nature, he stated to me some other objections which could not be brought forward in that way, but which I must confess to you, seem to me of the most serious nature, and which are calculated to involve some of our people in Turkey, if they were to be made public, in a very disagreeable situation.

I hope soon to hear from Mr. Leishman, and when I do, I will write you at once, but you will understand that in view of his position, the State Department is very unwilling to take action, or overrule him. The view of the case and of its circumstances which he has presented personally to the State Department, has had great weight with them.

After I hear from him I shall do my best to see if he cannot be persuaded to take some action, but I am bound to tell you that from what he said to me, and what I have been told at the State Department, I do not feel at all encouraged.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) H. C. Lodge.

Miss Ellen M. Stone,
157 Chestnut St., Chelsea.

Senator Lodge to
Miss E. M. Stone.

Dec. 13-1904.

(Copy).

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January I, I908.

My dear Miss Stone: -

I have had two long talks with Mr. Root and Mr. Bacon in regard to your case. I asked Mr. Root to put the decision of the Department in the form of a letter which I could send to you. In addition to the reasons already given to you, there are other reasons which weigh very heavily with the Department but which cannot be made public. I am sorry that the decision should be unfavorable to your wishes but I fear that there is nothing more that can be done.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) H. C. Lodge.

Miss Ellen M. Stone,
I57 Chestnut St., Chelsea.

Department of State,
Washington.

December 3I, I907.

My Dear Senator:

The Department has definitely determined not to make any demand upon the Government of Turkey for indemnification in regard to the ransom paid for the rescue of Miss Stone.

For reasons which I think you would consider good and sufficient, the Department does not deem it best for the public interest to enter upon a presentation or explanation of the circumstances which have led to that conclusion.

Faithfully yours,

(Signed) Elihu Root.

Honorable Henry Cabot Lodge,
United States Senate.

Communication, letter
Dec. 6, 1920
Mr. Storer,
Senator Lodge, Sec. Root

[Copy.]

229

Personal.

157 Chestnut Street,

Chelsea, Mass.,

Jan. 8, 1908.

Hon. Henry Cabot Lodge,

United States Senator from Massachusetts, and member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations; -

My dear Senator Lodge; -

Permit me to thank you for your note of the 1st inst., enclosing the letter of Dec. 31 from Secretary Root to yourself. Were it possible to talk with you, I would prefer that to writing; as it is not, I again address a letter to you, to which I most respectfully ask your kind consideration.

Your great patience and sympathy toward me, awaken my profound gratitude, and I trust you will bear with me, while I further ask your attention to three points. Last Friday Dr. Thom, a missionary of the American Board, who reached the United States but a few months since, from his station in Asiatic Turkey, - told me that he was sure there was hardly an American missionary in that province, who had not been surprised because our Government had not acted more promptly with reference to the outrage of which I was the victim in Macedonia. Pardon me for adding this word of testimony from people who are in a position to realize the awfulness of my captivity, as many, perhaps most, who never lived in Turkey, cannot realize it.

I trust that you understood the urgency of my letter of the 20th ult., to refer to the fulfillment by Ambassador Leishman of his assurance to write to you for me, that which he had stated to you and to the State Department, - which had such weight in influencing your

minds against bringing up with the Porte my case for indemnification. It was your own kind proposal, Senator Lodge, to send it to me, as soon as you should receive it. It was also Ambassador Leishman's proposal to you, as I understood from your note. I trust that as I was the captive, and therefore the party most deeply interested, I am not included in "the public,"- and that your assurance to me may yet be fulfilled.

The third point in my mind with reference to your letter and that of the Secretary of State, is this: - In asking your assistance and that of Senator Crane to secure the settlement of my case, I called your attention to the two assurances given by Acting Secretary of State Adee, in his despatch dated Oct. 5, 1901, addressed to the late Judson Smith, D.D., of the American Board in Boston. Lest the copy which I once forwarded to you, may not be at your hand, allow me to quote it again: - "It seems imperative that the amount should be raised or pledged so as to be available by your treasurer at Constantinople in season to save Miss Stone. Statuary prohibitions make it impossible for this Government to advance the money or guarantee its payment. If paid by Miss Stone's friends, every effort will be made to obtain re-imbursement from whichever government may be found responsible under international law and precedent. In the event of its proving impossible to hold any foreign government, responsible for the capture, and to secure the payment of the money, this government is willing, in the last resort to urge upon Congress as strongly as possible, to appropriate money to repay the missionaries." As I before explained to you, the last word is incorrect, as my missionary friends gave nothing toward my ransom. They told me that they would have raised a thousand dollars among themselves but they dared not give anything, not knowing what complications might result, as some of them too are in Turkey. The last word of the despatch should therefore be "friends of Miss Stone."

31st ult., that "the Department has definitely determined not to make any demand upon the Government of Turkey for indemnification in regard to the ransom paid for the rescue of Miss Stone." It is needless for me to say that, with my present knowledge of the facts, this decision seems inexplicable to me. Since it is taken, however, I must remind you of the second part of my request of you: - that you will call the attention of the Department to the assurance which it gave, that "in the event of failure to hold any foreign government responsible for the capture, and to secure the repayment of the money, this Government is willing in the last resort, to urge upon Congress as strongly as possible, to appropriate money to repay the missionaries" (givers of the ransom). For the indemnification of those who by their gifts saved my life, I most respectfully and earnestly urge the fulfillment of this pledge by the State Department. I am persuaded that it was this assurance of measures to be taken for their re-imbursement, together with their love for their captive friend, and fears for her life, which induced many of my family, relatives, and sympathizers throughout the nation, to pour out their money, which some could ill afford to spare.

May I also recall to your mind, Mr. Lodge, the suggestion of Treasurer Peet of the American Board at Constantinople, which I quoted to you in my letter of Nov. 26, p. 6? Permit me again to cite it here, to facilitate your remembrance of it: - "If action by Congress should now furnish a vicarious indemnity to the subscribers to your ransom fund, I think its action might be made to carry a most impressive lesson to Turkey, as well as showing a magnanimous settlement on the part of a great nation. If such a step should be taken, I hope it may be accompanied by a suitable and formal notice to this (the Ottoman) Government, pointing out the fact that America indemnifies its own citizens for losses incurred, and outrage done here, and that it thus pays

a bill in the interest of peace and good-will, that Turkey might in justice have been called upon to discharge. If also this notice were coupled with the statement that another case of this sort might be expected to receive a different treatment, I think the demands of both justice and diplomacy would be met, and the dignity of our country would be preserved and possibly be enhanced both here" (before the Porte) "and at home." You will doubtless remember that in my letter to you, of Dec. 20, I referred to Mr. Peet as a member of the Ransoming Committee, ~~and~~ one who knows the case thoroughly, and is withal a man of such uprightness, wisdom, and knowledge of affairs in the Ottoman Empire, having been a careful student of them for more than twenty years,-that he is frequently consulted by our diplomats there.

Believing that your patience, my dear Senator Lodge, will not become exhausted until at least a financial re-imbursement has been made to the givers of my ransom, and assuring you with absolute truthfulness that nothing could ever have persuaded me to become a party to any international affair such as my case has become, had I had any choice in the matter, - I remain

Most gratefully and still hopefully yours,

(Signed) Ellen M. Stone.

Copy. Collier's Weekly to Senator Dodge

Jan. 8/1908.

Private and Confidential.

8.15

Received 15

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157 Chestnut Street,

Chelsea, Mass.,

Jan. 14, 1908.

Rev. J. L. Barton, D. D.,

Cor. Secretary of the American Board; -

Dear Dr. Barton; -

I thank you for your note of the 11th inst., and feel sure that my request of you that this matter shall be held confidential by yourself and associates, will be respected.

Unless you can succeed in "uncovering Senator Lodge's position" and Mr. Leishman's, I do not know how it can be done. It is very mysterious to me how the opinion of one man, Mr. Leishman, has been allowed to influence the State Department and Senator Lodge of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, as to cause their decision "not to present the claim to the Turkish Government. The same facts," Mr. Lodge informs me, in a note bearing the same date with your own, "would militate against asking Congress to indemnify those persons who paid your ransom, and I am bound to say that if the facts were laid before Congress as they were laid before me, Congress would not pay the indemnity." - Just there, as it seems to me, is the vulnerable point in his statement: - "as they were laid before me."

Is it right for the State Department and for Senator Lodge to listen to facts "as put before" them by even our Ambassador to Turkey, whose attitude of friendliness toward the Porte, ~~is well known~~ however much the interests of his Government and of his fellow-countrymen in the Ottoman Empire suffer, - is well known; and to be influenced by his statements, to the exclusion of all others, to decide adversely to the petitioner? Then is it right for them to refuse me all

Copied. Compare to

information as to the character of his statements, save the mysterious remark with its possibly defamatory suggestion, - that were the facts made public, they "are calculated to involve some of our people in Turkey in a very disagreeable situation." This permits no question as to the correction of his views and inferences. It does not seem consistent with the candor usually attributed to the United States Government.

If the Mission Boards have reason to be dissatisfied with Ambassador Leishman's conduct of affairs connected with their institutions i in Turkey, would not a presentation of their views show the State Department his deficiencies in those relations, and help it to believe that in his statement of facts pertaining to my case also, he is not the infallible authority it seems to deem him to be?

Mr. Lodge says again in his note of the 11th.; - "Mr. Leishman promised me to write me fully in regard to your case, after I talked to him, but a death in his own family, and his prompt departure to Europe, prevented his doing so. The Department, however, is entirely familiar with all the facts, both those made public, and those which it deemed adverse to the public interest to publish. It is on full knowledge of these facts, and upon weighing them carefully, that they have decided not to present the claim to the Turkish Government."

From this decision it is clear that the Secretary of State and Mr. Lodge have fully accepted Mr. Leishman's views as true, and leave o out of the account the captive's statements, those of Mr. Peet and others of the Ransoming Committee, who could know much more than she, of all ~~all~~ outside the conditions of the captives themselves, - and many ~~b~~ others; also the opinions of Mr. Bryce and President Angell, and the general expectation of the public, - that satisfaction would be demanded and secured for this first case of the kidnapping of an American subject, within the limits of the Ottoman Empire. It is inexplicable to

me how Mr. Leishman has gained for his views such assent, that those of all others are completely set aside.

The fact remains that our Government made voluntary assurances of its intention to do all in its power to secure redress; assurances which now, because of the statements of one man, it declines to fulfill, while at the same time it refuses to state what his assertions against certain Americans are, that the parties affected by them may make answer for themselves!

This surely cannot be the final answer of the wise, just Government of the United States, to my plea for redress; - not redress for the wrongs I suffered, for that could not be; - but for simple justice to those whose great love interposed to save me from threatened death!

Hoping that you may suggest some further measure for me to take, or if not, that you may accomplish something where I seem not to have been able, - though seeking continually to be led by God, I remain, my dear Dr. Barton,

Very truly yours,

Ellen M. Stone.

Collen Nov. 14 - 908.

Chelsea Press.

Note

R. Thomson

FEB 24 1900 231

MAR 29 1900

Samokov, Bulgaria.
9th February, 1900.

My dear Dr Barton,

I much regret that I have not been able to report to you earlier on an interesting visit I was privileged to make to Kustendil in the first week of January. I was under malarial fever when I went, and since my return have had much more of it, to-gether with a slight attack of bronchitis; and these things, along with an exceptional stress of work in the Publication Department, have prevented my writing.

Yet the lapse of these weeks has by no means dulled the feeling of pleasure which the visit yielded me. You doubtless know from Dr Clarke that Kustendil has for long been to this Station, + indeed the whole Mission, a point of special interest, considerable anxiety, and much prayer; and you must be aware of the thankfulness with which we heard that Rev. D. N. Tournadjieff (a graduate of Princeton College & Seminary, & an ordained member of the New Brunswick Presbytery, N. J.) had with his wife accepted our invitation to go there & work. My visit was

in connection with special Christmas services (old style) which it was proposed to hold, & the examination of four candidates for church membership. I had the opportunity of meeting with almost all the friends — not a very large circle as yet, + of holding private converse with each of the candidates, who had already been examined by the church. I also preached on Christmas forenoon & Sunday forenoon, received to membership the two candidates who were voted to be accepted, & assisted in dispensing the communion.

It was delightful to see the genuine affection + regard in which Mr & Mrs Tournadjieff are held by all the friends. They speak of them as a gift from God in answer to their prayers. They are always ready, to the utmost of their ability, to sustain & second them in any work they may undertake. The little company is growing in knowledge & spirituality; & their influence is being helpfully felt in the town.

I regard Mr Tournadjieff (whom I have had opportunities of judging of on three previous occasions) as perhaps the ablest of all the workers we have in the field. His sermon on the Sunday evening was no ordinary thing. While absolutely simple + suited to his audience, it was yet so rich in Bible knowledge & Christian experience, + presented with such ability, that it might have been the work of some city pastor of long standing. Mentally + spiritually he is much

above the average. His judgment, too, seems to be sound. He has rapidly lived down the persecution with which he was first met, & has changed it, to a large extent, into absolute cordiality & friendship. He is active & untiring in work, much given to prayer, & very modest; and, under God, it is just what might have been expected of him that he has been able to do so much in so short a time.

A special feature of the work is the success with the children; & I was glad to see that amongst them it so largely consisted in learning by heart important portions of Scripture. Mr Tournadjieff always calls this his wife's work, and doubtless she takes the lead in it; but I could see that he is a most important aid to her in it, while the children seemed as devoted to him as their parents. It is evident, however, that Mrs Tournadjieva is a thorough help-meet to her husband in the work. She does excellent work amongst the women; while the exercise that was carried through round the tree on Christmas evening spoke most highly both for her sound knowledge of Scripture & ability to handle it aright, & her gift for interesting & training even the smallest children.

Now what Kustendil needs, & needs pressingly, is funds to purchase or erect a place for public services. The prejudice that exists in this country against holding divine service in a private house keeps away many who would

gladly attend. And the place would need to be from four to six times as large as the present place at the very least. Many stay away simply because they object to having to stand all through the service, & specially having to be in the outer hall, where they lose half. The present room holds only about forty: with accommodation for from a hundred & twenty to a hundred & eighty the room might be regularly filled. It seems to me that the present opportunity ought not to be allowed to pass. There has never before been so good a chance for Kustendil; & there may not be again for long. Another thing is favourable: for some reason or other the Government does not molest Protestant office-holders there. The leading church member is the chief of the local Customs, & has been supported in his place against the opposition of envious competitors. Another member is a prominent & favoured man in one of the regimental bands. And of the two candidates who on this occasion were postponed for a season, one is the local veterinary surgeon, & the other holds a contract for supplying the troops with meat. All are well known as Protestants, yet the Government does not touch them. Under all these circumstances, there seems here a chance for striking a good root that might be permanent & yield much after growth. I wish earnestly to appeal for aid for a hall in Kustendil.

I had just a look at Dubritza on the way, & attended one of the meetings of the Week of Prayer there on the return journey; but I was not favourably impressed with the condition of things. The handful of friends there are very self-satisfied, & seem content to get along without much human help, and, as far as I could see, without much divine either.

Your kind letter of the 23rd December last was duly received, & I thank you for all the encouragement it contains, even though you could not add financial encouragement. — I shall gladly prepare as best I can such a statement as you desire about our Institute. I trust I am not already too late with it. My health this past month & the pressure of work have prevented my attempting it. But I hope to get it ready in the course of ten days at latest. It has escaped my mind to ask Dr Haskell about his contribution: if he has not already forwarded his, I shall try to have them both go together.

Referring to certain points in your letter, I may say that we are feeling somewhat doubtful as to whether it will be best to have a 7th (Theological) Class next year. We have none this year. There are three reasons against it. One is that, with perhaps one exception, the

students who would enter it are hardly such as we should care to see offering for work in the field. Another is, that we should need an additional teacher, which means more expense with less means. And the third is, as I said before, that there is really no work to offer (at least, no work & pay) to students who prepare themselves. Undoubtedly the support of the workers by the people is, as you say, the ideal, & I think none of us ever loses sight of it for a moment; but these people are doing in their poverty all that can be expected of them at present. In some cases they have unwillingly been obliged to diminish their offerings. Are you aware that there is famine in the south-eastern corner of Bulgaria? The local deputy has asked the National Assembly for 20,000 francs of aid. Everywhere poverty is increasing, & living is very hard.

This last letter of yours correctly states our views as to the Zornitza. We have no wish to make it a political paper in the ordinary acceptation of the term, still less to sacrifice the religious features; but we feel that it must give political news, & must discuss many of the current religious, moral, social, educational, & industrial questions of the day. The influence of a religious paper in these lines might be enormously for good. — The call for the Zornitza, I may say, still continues loud.

I still continue to be much pleased with the results of the greater strictness now enforced in the Institute in regard to conduct & studies. I am convinced that laxity hurts us & hurts the boys. If we do not err on the side of tyranny or annoying extremes, the stricter we are, the better all round. I think we have all come to see this more or less; for at our Faculty Meeting this week I succeeded in carrying a vote (none opposing, though not all supporting it) whereby next school year & onwards we shall do away with the one remaining indulgence in the course of study which we still allowed the boys during the present year. And the bad-conduct marks of the boys during this year's first term were simply as nothing compared with those of previous years.

You will be glad to hear that, although the Publication Department here began 1899 with a debt of 10½ Liras, it closed the year with 82½ Liras to its credit. This sum, together with what is in the bank in America for the Industrial Department makes me hope that ere very long we may have an enlarged building, a larger & better printing press, more & better type, & perhaps the services of a machinist. We certainly need all these things. The sale of books in 1899 was most encouraging. If cheap & good religious literature is provided, these people will take it.

It may perhaps seem to you premature or even unnecessary, yet I think I ought to say a word about having another missionary in training for our literary work. Last year & this, with the twofold duties entailing on me, are proving a pretty heavy burden; and even if I can hold out other two years, if spared, I hardly think I could go beyond the spring or summer of 1902, when other ten years of work would be completed, without asking for a year's furlough. Dr House took my work the last time I was away, & possibly he might do so again; but he is so needed in Macedonia, & has such gifts as an evangelist, that we should all be unwilling to move him from there even temporarily. Yet aside from him there is, apparently, no one else now in the Mission that could take the work. Even Dr Haskell felt obliged last September to decline, on account of entire lack of training & experience, the management of the literary work as voted by Annual Meeting. The work could not be suspended. If a new man is to come, two years is none too long a time for him to be in training. My recent indisposition has made me feel more uncertain about myself; & it seems to me not out of place to mention this matter to you.

My wife joins me in very cordial regards.

Yours most sincerely

Robt. Thomson.

Samarkand, Aug. 7, 1900

MAR 8 1900
MAR 29 1900

Samokov, Bulgaria.
22nd February, 1900.

My dear Dr Barton,

Having written you at length so lately I do not now need to add anything as I forward you the promised statement as to the Course of Study in our Institute here & the outlook for the future.

With kindest regards, I am

Yours very sincerely
Robt. Thomson.

(#) [page 2]

The course of study as it is at present fixed in the Institute has been regulated by what has seemed to ~~us to~~ be demanded by the condition of the country. As its name — The Collegiate & Theological Institute — indicates, there are two courses of study; but, as a matter of fact, the courses are identical during the first six years, at the end of which those passing successful examinations graduate with

Samokov, Bulgaria

~~our~~ the Scientific Diploma. After that, if any desire to continue, & are approved by ~~us~~ the mission, as students in the Theological Department, they have one year more of study, taking none but Seminary subjects. Then they receive ~~our~~ the Theological Diploma.

In the course of the first six years ~~we have to keep~~ we have two things in mind. The first is the necessity of giving ~~our boys~~ an education at least as good as ~~they~~ could be received in the gymnasia of the country: the second is the duty of giving such a place to Biblical and religious instruction as is nowhere given in the national schools, ~~as well as of imparting to the course that Western flavour which we consider a decided improvement.~~

Carrying out the first of these duties, ~~we have hitherto given them~~ the curriculum has included a good course in their own language, Bulgarian & in English, & a shorter course in French; ~~some~~ Geography; a ~~fair~~ course in Bulgarian & General History; a good knowledge of Arithmetic, Algebra, ~~&~~ & trigonometry Geometry; and a ~~fair~~ course in Physics, Chemistry, Botany, Zoology, Physiology, ~~& Book-Keeping~~. ~~To some~~ & Astronomy, Logic, mental & moral Philosophy, Political Economy

years past, however, our best Bulgarian teachers had been urging that this course should be more nearly assimilated to the course in the national schools. This they urged, not out of preference for the latter, but because of the pressure of circumstances. If we receive boys from the national school into, say, our Third or Fourth Class, they have much difficulty in passing our entrance examination because of the difference in the courses. So also <u>vice versa</u>; and so also still more if any of our graduates attempts to take the Government final examination. And when last summer, the Government finally informed us that it would recognize no private schools whatever, our Mission in its Annual Meeting felt this to be a crowning argument in favour of authorising the proposed change; & it accordingly did so. The result is that this year our courses in Bulgarian & French have been considerably extended, & that in English slightly; the Geography course has been trebled; the History course has been extended; & the courses in Mathematics have been rendered much more satisfactory, & so also those in Physics, Chemistry, Botany, & Zoology. And so our programme is much nearer that of the Government

schools than formerly. We hope that the sacrifice we have made of some things which we prefer may be compensated for by this smoothing of the way for the coming & going of students.

In fulfilment of the second of the duties ~~that I~~ mentioned ~~we give~~ a large place in each class is given to Biblical study, and in addition to that ~~give our students~~ a good training is imparted in Evidences of Christianity & Natural Theology i.e. while the Western flavour ~~is imparted through our~~ pervades all the courses — not ordinarily if at all found in the national schools — in Trigonometry, Astronomy, Logic, Mental & Moral Philosophy, Geology & Mineralogy, Political Economy, & Church History. And though the national schools have courses in Literature (General) & Pedagogy, our courses in these subjects cannot but have a character & value of their own.

~~Our~~ The Theological course, as has been ~~I have~~ said, consists of only one extra year. In the present state of ~~our~~ the field, ~~our~~ the need in the churches & general evangelistic work is for men who, aside from spiritual qualifications, have a sound general education, an intelligent mastery of ordinary

theological subjects, and such a knowledge of English as will enable them to continue to receive, from books & periodicals, further spiritual & other benefit after they are at work. There is as yet no need for men filled with all with which the Western Seminaries could fill them. We therefore think that our one extra year is at present sufficient. During the six previous years the students have already become well acquainted with the Bible & with much Christian knowledge; and the regular preaching & Sunday School services of course supplement & confirm the class work. And so we give our seventh year students simply some further Biblical Exegesis, and courses in Church History, Dogmatic Theology, Homiletics, & Pastoral Theology. I think our experience thus far amply justifies this course.

All the students have Gymnastics, Singing, & Rhetorical Exercises; and the Classes in the lower half have also Writing & Drawing.

4) 4 if must be As for the future, ~~I cannot hesitate to say~~ most emphatically and that this Institute is indispensable, not merely for our mission work or for the children of the Protestant community, but for the welfare of Bulgaria. Amongst the higher schools of the

land it is the one bright spot in the midst of almost universal & generally unblushing scepticism & agnosticism, if not absolute infidelity. Let it go down & disappear, and I do not see how it will be possible thereafter to find a single higher school Bulgarian graduate whose education will have been founded on, or even in any way strengthened by, religious principle; while in the vast majority of cases an absolutely anti-religious or irreligious character will have been imparted to it. As for our Protestant communities & our work, the Institute is simply part & parcel of them: they cannot do without it. It must at any cost be kept up, & that in an ever increasing state of efficiency.

There has been talk of raising the Institute to the status of a College. I do not need to enter upon that at present; but it is already plain that, even as an Institute, we must be able to command the very best teaching talent amongst our evangelical men, & we must have sufficient means to enable the various courses to be taught efficiently so far as plant & apparatus &c. are concerned. Given these things, our establishment here can never cease to be highly valued in Bulgaria.

Robt. Thomson.

Samokov, Feb. 22, 1900

Samokov, Bulgaria: 26th March, 1900.

Dear Sir, — In accordance with the added request, I beg herewith to acknowledge receipt of the printed Extract from Minutes, of date 14th Feb., 1900, relative to payments in excess of appropriations. May I be allowed respectfully to point out that neither the Handbook (as far as I can see) nor these Resolutions provide for the case of a missionary whose removal from one Station to another has been voted by the Mission. His expenses, of course, fall to be charged to the Board; but it is difficult to see how they could be provided for by appropriation. This oversight (as it appears to me) has probably attracted my attention owing to the fact that the final charges for the removal of our family & furniture from Constantinople to here (which were unfortunately heavy charges) were sent to Boston in the last Semi-Annual Account. Should such a case not be provided for? — Yours very sincerely, Robt. Thomson.

MAY 29 1900
JUN 26 1900

Samokov, Bulgaria.
14th May, 1900.

My dear Dr Barton,

Two days ago we all returned in safety from our Annual Meeting in Salonica. As I think over some of the things that were done they seem to me so important that I venture to send you this letter, backing up to the best of my ability the general voice of our resolutions.

More men & more money, in the first place, I hope you will not think that our call for more missionaries & our increase of our estimates is to be lightly set aside. It does seem as though we had reached or are rapidly approaching the place, when we must shed this old skin that has lasted us so long, & put on a larger one. It does not seem as though we can go on longer in this way. God is blessing us with a growing work; & surely He does not mean that the staff & means that answered the purpose ten years ago is to serve for all time. The call is His, not ours.

Our Albanian work has received your sanction. It has been kept up after a fashion ever since; but it ought to be pushed vigorously. I feel a special interest — almost responsibility — for this work, because my dear father was such a devoted labourer for that neglected people. The legacy that he left for their evangelisation I am spending through our mission. But aside from that the call is loud. These people are within the limits of our field. They have appealed to us for enlightenment. They are at one & the same time unusually gifted & preeminently neglected. And what little we have been able to do for them is decidedly encouraging. Do not let us be disappointed of a man to work for them.

Our general field work needs reinforcement. Those in it already are heavily burdened & cannot do more. And when furloughs or other changes take place, there is no reserve force to fall back upon. Here too we greatly need a man.

This Collegiate & Theological Institute cannot flourish till it has a Director who can give all his time to it. I am convinced that the lines on which I am now conducting the

Institute — the lines of greater strictness & personal supervision — are the right lines; but, with my double duties, I can neither carry on the Printing Department as carefully as I ought, nor can I carry out my system in the Institute as completely as I ought. I shall say nothing more about my personal need of relief, or we are all, or nearly all, working beyond our strength. Yet I doubt the wisdom of calling down your missionaries so that they cannot find time for family, recreation or adequate rest. But if, at that expense the work was done & well done, we should only rejoice. It is when we see that work as hard as we may, the work is yet insufficient, that we feel obliged to call for more helpers. We do hope for a strong man, well up on educational & disciplinarian matters, yet open-minded and adaptable to the needs of this land, to come & help us in this Institute and, should he prove the right man, to step at an early date into the Directorship. I am to remain Director for yet a third year, and, I fear, a fourth & a fifth, as things look at present. May I not then step down & out before our new man?

Our native friends, who at one time did not seem very eager to see our force enlarged, are now earnestly at one with us in this appeal. Their sympathy with us is complete; & their views of questions are very much nearer our own than they were some years ago.

Removals. We should never have consented to let Dr Haskell sever connection with this institute for anything short of an imperative reason. As a teacher & as a preacher he has been simply invaluable here; & I dont know how we are to get on without him. But it would have been wrong to risk Mrs Haskell's health with another winter here; & that settled the matter in our minds. After that, there could scarcely be a doubt that Philippopolis is the place for them to go to. Mrs Haskell will have a large community to mother there just as she has had here. Dr Haskells Sunday audiences will be even larger & more inspiring than those here. And if he has no institute in which to teach, he will have a score of churches & communities around him to instruct by his preaching & to guide by his advice. And Mr Marsh needs help.

What I have to say about the voting of Miss Clarke to Sophia is of a somewhat different nature. I regret to say that the vote produced some heat in our Meeting, & for a day or two things were said in connection with it that ought not to have been said. Could I be sure that these things were said only in the heat of the moment, & would not be repeated, I would not even have made this reference to them. But as it was stated that appeal would be made to Boston, I consider it my duty, as Chairman of the Meeting, to say just a word or two, but very clearly. First. As to the wisdom of the vote in question there is room for difference of opinion. I do not enter upon the merits of the case, but await the decision from Boston. But, second, the charges of collusion, of jealousy, of inter-Station rivalry, & of other unworthy motives & methods ought not to have been made. They were earnestly repudiated in the meeting; & no unprejudiced person who knows those who carried the vote, can do other than feel that they were sadly slandered by having such things said about them. Whatever the Prudential Committee may think as to the vote itself, they will surely believe that those who carried it were actuated by none but high

& pure motives, & with a single-hearted desire for the advancement of the work. And, <u>third</u>, the manner in which the change was first proposed & finally carried, was from first to last strictly regular. It was not even "regular, but unusual." There was nothing to distinguish it in any way from scores of votes that have been passed at our annual meetings. The Chairman of the committee, with which the proposal originated told the story of its inception there in the frankest possible manner before the whole meeting; & his statement was not called in question by any one. And from that statement, & from what I can vouch for of our proceedings in full meeting, I can give you the most unqualified assurance that, be the vote itself approved or condemned, it was carried in an absolutely regular, usual, & fair way, & with every Christian endeavour to show courtesy.

<u>The Zornitza</u>. It was not our intention to discuss the Zornitza again; but our native brethren compelled us to do so by again urging us to begin it next January. They are extremely anxious to have it re-appear, & I think will give us no rest till it does come out again. But, let me say frankly, they wish the <u>old</u> Zornitza,

not such a paper as you & others have suggested. And let me add, I agree with them. Because, in the first place, there is a crying need for such a paper; secondly, anything that came short of the old Zornitza would cause enough disappointment to ensure failure; & third, I cannot see what objection there can be to a paper run exactly on the lines of the Avedaper. Our answer, however, could not be encouraging. The financial side of the matter is perhaps not the most difficult. Our great difficulty is that we cannot share a man. Dr House is tied hand & foot. So am I. Probably Mr Ed. Haskell ought to be regarded for some time to come yet as bound to the Salonica Station. And I don't think that any of the rest of us would care to take up the editorship. I know your great desire to see the Zornitza started again — in some form or other: so please find here one more argument — & a strong one — for sending us the new men we ask for.

Sofia. There can be no doubt that Sofia needs a second evangelical labourer. I still greatly regret that we did not come to an understanding with our Methodist friends some years ago, & ar-

range to allow them to have a church in Sophia as the capital, as close upon the borders of their field, & as a town between which & their territory there is inevitably a great deal of movement & communication. That, to my mind, would have been the right & the gracious thing to do; and it would not only have provided for the wants of the capital or the present but would have afforded the country the spectacle of true Christian unity in the midst of diversity. I would still advocate that if the Methodists are prepared to take it up. But if not, then unquestionably there ought to be made provision for a second worker from our ranks in Sofia. The town is growing rapidly; and no one man, however strong, can do for it all that ought to be done as present opportunity offers.

Believe me, with sincere regards,

Yours most truly,

Robt. Thomson.

Bangkok, Feb. 14, 1900

DEC 29 1900
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JAN 3 1901

Samokov: Bulgaria.
11th December, 1900.

My dear Dr Barton,

Your letter of the 26th Nov. reached me yesterday morning; and I thank you for the courtesy that prompted the writing of it. It so happened that last night was the time for our regular business meetings; & so I was able to bring it at once under the consideration of our Trustees.

What you say of Mr Baird's success as a teacher here is correct. He was eminently satisfactory, & I was most reluctant to part with him. But when it became necessary to provide Dr House with a colleague in the absence of Mr Haskell, the consideration that chiefly induced me to vote for Mr Baird's going to Salonica rather than Mr Clarke was simply this, that Mr Baird, by his long experience in Macedonia, & by his knowledge of Turkish & Albanian, was fitted to be a much more efficient colleague to Dr House — and that, at once — than Mr Clarke could possibly be.

Accordingly, there need be no doubt that, if it should be necessary for him to be removed from Salonica, he would receive a warm welcome here. But after considering the question last night, the conclusion that we reached was that it would not be best for us at present to make any proposal in that direction, unless Mr Baird's condition should become such as to render it imperative. Our Annual Meeting will most probably be held in the Easter Vacation; & we felt that the question had better be delayed till then, and discussed and settled by our whole force. Because, if Mr Baird is removed from there, someone must take his place; & the question is — Who? By that time we shall probably know whether or not Dr Kingsbury is to return, when Mr Haskell may be expected back, whether Dr & Mrs Haskell think they will be able to spend another winter in Samokov, & what new missionaries we are to have. These things will make the discussion of the question about Mr Baird much easier. Meanwhile, however, we shall write letters & exchange views on the question, & try to ripen the matter & to prepare our minds for the settlement of it at Annual Meeting.

The student from Auburn Theological Seminary who addressed the recent enquiry to you is, I presume, my nephew R. T. Ostrander. Several of the members of our Mission made his acquaintance out here some two years ago; and when the Board granted us the promise of two new missionaries, one or two of them asked me to invite him to offer as one candidate, as they had formed a high opinion of him. I was very glad to do as they suggested; & I need not say that if he determines to offer and the Board accepts him it will be a peculiar pleasure to me.

We are all thankful that in your letter you do not say anything worse than that you greatly regret that you are "unable to make appropriations this year in excess of those a year ago." Praise God that you do not need to announce a reduction. That was what we feared. Yet we shall long & pray for the time when you can announce an increase once more.

Things here go on quietly & regularly, with nothing special to write about, but with many little signs to encourage.

The main problem with us at present is the Yambol Church, — a question with which this Station has become involved owing to the repeatedly expressed request that we would let Mr Tournadjieff go there from Kustendil. It is an exceedingly difficult matter. Pray with us that we may be guided aright in regard to it.

Believe me, with kind regards,
Yours very sincerely,
Robert Thomson.

Thomson, R.
Dec. 11, 1902

JAN 7 1901 236
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P. C.

Samokov, Bulgaria.
19th December, 1900.

My dear Dr Barton,

I have two things to write to you about to-day.

The first is in regard to Kustendil. You know already the deep interest we feel in that place, the efforts we have put forth in its behalf, & the peculiar responsibility we feel regarding it in view of the fact that an unknown friend in America has for so long specially contributed for it. You know also that Mr & Mrs Fournadjieff's work has been so blessed that they feel the absolute necessity of a proper place of worship; but perhaps you do not know that Dr Clarke, out of money given to him, pledged 2000 francs towards the necessary cost, on condition that they themselves raised other 1000 francs. This is a very difficult condition — almost impossible; still, they & we shall be so anxious to secure the 2000 fr. that we shall do all we possibly can to raise the 1000 fr.; & so I take it for granted that the 3000 fr. is secure. Lately we have been receiving letters from Mr Fournadjieff, who represents — with strict

justice, as I believe — that prices will soon rise greatly in the town, because it has been decided to carry on the railway from Sophia till it reaches Kustendil, & possibly even over the frontier into Turkey. He therefore urges that a purchase should be made soon — at once, if possible — so that they may not be driven to being content with some out-of-the-way & undesirable site. He has mentioned two or three places that seem good, but especially one, with a house on it, which could be had for 5000 fr.; & he asks that a special effort be made to secure it if we approve. Our Station considered the matter, and came to the two following decisions. First, we authorized Mr Tournadjieff, in accordance with his own request, to write, through you, to the unknown contributer in America, asking him if he could not aid in making this purchase; & of course we ask you, if nothing lies your hands, & if you approve, to sanction & forward the letter. Second, we authorized one of our number (and it has fallen to me) to lay the case directly before yourself for presentation to the Committee, in the hope that a grant in aid may be allowed for this very deserving object. I earnestly wish the Committee might see its way to do so. To keep Mr Tournadjieff in Kustendil without a place of worship is like providing a fine engine & giving

it as rails to run on. Two classes of people are prevented from attending the services who would like to attend :— those who share the eastern prejudice against religious services in private houses; & those who object to stand all the time, or to be crushed, or to be in an outer back room where they can hardly hear, —all because the main room is too small to hold them all. We believe that with a properly fitted place of worship & God's blessing great & rapid progress might be made in Kustendil; & as a Station we make a united & earnest appeal for aid to the few & poor followers there to secure some suitable place.

Next, I wish to write to you about my nephew, Leroy F. Ostrander, presently a senior in Auburn Theological Seminary, who has some thoughts about the work here. Let me say first that it was Dr House, who had twice met him, & who had always spoken very highly about him, who first suggested Mr Ostrander as one of the two new men whom you have allowed us, & who asked me whether I would not write & ask him to think of this work. Let me further say that I trust you agree with me in thinking that it is entirely proper for a person to be asked, or to offer, to come out for a particular work in a Mission. I think this is not unfrequently done; & if a person's

qualifications seem to mark him out specially for one branch of the work, it appears to me not only proper, but a duty, to try to bring work & worker together. We have thought of Mr Ostrander for the charge of this Collegiate & Theological Institute. Of course, he would not be put in charge till he had learned the language & had gained the experience of a year or two in the country; but eventually that is what we have in view for him should he offer & should he be accepted. Although, as he is my nephew, I feel a certain diffidence in speaking about him, yet I can bear confident testimony to his Christian character, to his excellent scholarship, to his painstaking work, & to his remarkable modesty which would make it so easy for him to work with others. But in particular I may say that Dr Washburn of Robert College, though at first prejudiced against him as a candidate for a tutorship there, on account of his youthful appearance, admitted afterwards that he had been wholly mistaken, & that Mr Ostrander was one of the greatest successes the College had ever had. Indeed I may say that Dr Washburn, who is generally cautious in expressing himself, quite surprised me with the enthusiasm with which he spoke about Mr Ostrander both as an instructor & as capable of

ruling the boys. These, of course, are qualifications which would be specially useful in the Institute here. My nephew also has a calm & good judgment, and would, I believe, be well fitted to be put in charge here, — even aside from the consideration that one has around one so many advisors. Both in Constantinople & in America his preaching has been much liked. He paid me a farewell visit at our Annual Meeting in Philippopolis in 1898, when many of the members of our Mission had an opportunity of meeting him; & they all seem to have been very favourably impressed by him. Dr House in particular, as I mentioned before, is specially taken with him, & is earnest in his hope that he may join our Mission.

I think this is all I need say in the meantime. I understand that my nephew, though decidedly inclined to offer, has been deterred by only one consideration, & that he wishes a little further time to decide how to act in view of that consideration. But meanwhile there can be no objection to an exchange of views as to his qualifications should God's leadings incline him finally to offer himself.

Believe me, with kindest regards,

Yours very sincerely,

Robt. Thomson.

Inumokow, Dec. 19, 1900

FEB 4 1901

Samokov, Bulgaria.
18th January, 1901.

My dear Dr Barton,

I received yesterday your letter of the 3rd inst., & thank you heartily for the greetings for the new year & new century. I need not say that, as the new era broke upon us, our first & most earnest prayers were for this great & blessed work in which you & we are engaged. The Lord answer our petitions with gracious fulness.

I have been further in correspondence with Mr Ostrander & his parents about his call to work here. I do not feel at liberty to press & urge his coming: I simply try to lay the case as fully & clearly and impartially as I can before him, & point out the manner in which the call was extended to him, — a manner that I think singularly indicated divine leading. Then I leave the rest to him, believing fully that in answer to his prayers & ours God will lead him aright. But I must say that personally I hope he may see his way to accept this call, as I think him singularly well

fitted for the work in view. His last letter to me indicated a readiness on his own part – almost to decision – to accept, but mentioned a consideration that might stand in the way.

If the last paragraph of my last letter – in regard to Yambol – was lacking in fulness, it was because it does not strictly fall to me to report such a case to you, & I supposed that either Dr Clarke or Mr Marsh had already given you full particulars. The case is this. Yambol Church has for long been in a very unsatisfactory condition. As far back as between 1881 & 1885, when I was a new missionary, learning the language at Philippopolis, it became such a difficult place to manage, that good Mr Boyadjieff was obliged to leave it. He was then the very best of our pastors. At that time the Church paid half of all its expenses; and I believe that for a few years after I removed to Constantinople in 1885 it became almost if not wholly self-supporting. But then began a rapid fall which has been going on ever since, till now the Church is in a desperate condition. Some of the members became very rich, & under the temptation of riches got into various bad ways, neglected giving to the Lord, became divided into factions, & what not. Pastors were sent them, but the place proved too difficult for their youth & inexperience. Some of the members are amongst the very first & oldest converts in this region. They are

men of strong will, imposing personality, & considerable position in the town; & they simply did as they liked with their pastors. Finally, about four years ago, the last of their pastors left them, & they have been living, spiritually, from hand to mouth ever since, it being apparently impossible to find the right man to send them. Deputations have visited & stayed longer or shorter times amongst them, the Sophia pastor was with them for two months last summer, certain of the members have been suspended from membership, others have been otherwise disciplined; but they remain without a pastor. And they, and I suppose all of us, feel that unless they can get a pastor there is little hope for them.

The difficulty is, where to find one. Mr Popoff of Sophia would do; but he ought not to leave the capital. Mr Setchanoff of Philippopolis might do; but, with the new church there calling such prominent attention to the work, it hardly seems fitting that he should leave at present. Possibly Mr Isakoff of Hasskovo might do, but opinions are divided on the point, & anyway it is considered unwise to remove him from a place where he is doing such good work, & where, before his coming, things were in such a bad position. Under these circumstances, the Yambol people & Mr Marsh, & I may say the Bulgarian friends in general, have cast their eyes on Mr Tournadjieff, our worker in Kustendil, & wish him to go as pastor to Yambol. Dr Haskell,

I think, would approve of his going; but Dr Clarke, Mr Clarke, & I have not seen our way to do so hitherto. Our reasons are threefold:- (1) Although we recognize Mr Fournadjieff's superior gifts, we feel that his youth & inexperience would almost certainly cause his work to fail there. (2) We feel a peculiar responsibility for Kustendil because of the faithful prayers & giving of that unknown friend in America. If his or her faith is to be honoured, we must do our best to secure the result. Besides, Kustendil is a large & important town, & will become still more important when the railway reaches it. The men that we sent there previously were failures & worse than failures; but Mr Fournadjieff has rapidly proved successful, & with God's blessing ought to do a great work there. (3) Neither he nor his wife feels that Yambol is the place for them. These are our reasons for voting as we do. We feel in regard to Yambol as deeply & sincerely as any of the others do; but we do not think that Mr Fournadjieff is the man to be sent there. Youth & inexperience may prove successful in cheering a handful of friends, gathering new followers, & living down opposition; yet that is not to say that they will cope successfully with the difficulties of the Yambol position. It is a perplexing problem. If what I have written enables you to make any suggestion, we shall be thankful to consider it.

Yesterday afternoon a telegram reached me announcing the death of our dear & venerated Dr Riggs. The news was quite unexpected. My wife, when in Constantinople just before Christmas, saw him; & since then I have received a letter from him. Though there was great frailty, there was full possession of memory & intellectual powers. But the shock of rich corn was fully ripe, & it has been gathered. I feel it an unspeakable privilege to have been specially associated with him in work these last sixteen years. His Christlikeness, his childlike simplicity, his humility, submissiveness, patience, accuracy were most remarkable, & have exercised a profound influence over me. I can never be too thankful that I have known & worked with such a man. I trust that materials exist for preparing a biography of him. If competently managed it ought to prove deeply interesting.

I hope it may not seem premature; but a very urgent letter that Dr Haskell & I received two weeks ago makes me already look forward to the possible results of Dr Riggs' removal. It was a letter urging us to go out more into the field & see the needs for ourselves, in which case we would not (as the writer put it, he being one of the most prominent laymen in Philippopolis) stand in the way of their getting various things that they wish. [We, of course, had simply

pointed out financial limitations, or else given advice which, if I may be pardoned for saying it, had proved too good to be rejected.] But the answer that we had to give to the invitation was just that we cannot do the work of two or three men. Dr Haskell is getting on in years, & is not very strong: he needs his vacations for rest. As for me, the vacations simply add to my work, because the boys are then free to be the entire day in the printing house & to earn as much money as they can. If you have "The Student Movement" for January, 1901 (Vol. III., No. 4), by the British College Christian Union, 22 Warwick Lane, London, E. C., you will find in the article on "India's Needs" (p. 77) a perfect description of how it is inevitable that missionaries must become tied down to certain kinds of work, teaching, literary, or otherwise, & find neither time nor strength for anything else, with the result that the unevangelized around them, even at their doors, hardly are aware of their existence. And the moral of the article is that the missionaries are not to blame, but that the home lands need to send out from two or three to twenty times as many missionaries as are now sent. I wish that article could be copied into the "Missionary Herald."

Well, it is this thought of the much work that needs to be done, & of our personal limitations, that makes me thus early express the hope that the Pru-

dential Committee will as early as possible allow us to have, besides the two new missionaries granted, another man to replace the veteran that has fallen. (I use "replace" simply in a numerical sense: no one can ever take Dr Riggs' place.) It is perhaps premature to forecast the future, yet I shall just give you an indication of what <u>might</u> be done, & certainly would be profitable, unless something better should be planned. Our two new men were asked — one for this Institute & one for Macedonia. Well, let Dr Riggs' successor take Mr Baird's place, & Mr Baird come here. Mr Baird could supply Mr Clarke's place in his time of furlough 1901–2, & my place in my furlough 1902–3; & then he might remain on permanently in charge of the literary work here, while I might then be free to go to Philippopolis and start the "Zornitza" again, & carry out the revision of the text of our Scriptures if that step should by that time receive the approval of the Mission. But whether this or some other plan be approved, we need all the men we can get; & my main point just is that I hope the Prudential Committee will at once face the need of giving us a third man to supply the loss.

Believe me,

Yours most sincerely,

Robert Thomson.

Transcribed by
Jany 18, 1901

Copy.

Samokov April 10th 1901.

Dear Brethren,

Messrs Baird and Marsh have written saying that they know of no Mission invitation to Mr Ostrander to come to Samokov with the school work definitely in view. I therefore, as the one who wrote the letter to Mr Ostrander, feel obliged to offer a few words on the subject.

It was when Dr House was here last summer that word was received from Boston that we had been granted two new missionaries, and asking any of us who knew suitable persons to mention their names to the Board, and to write to them and invite them

to offer themselves. Almost at once Dr House suggested the name of Mr Ostrander, and, in view of the great success he had had as a teacher at Robert College, further suggested that he would be a suitable person to invite for the school work here. These suggestions were laid before the missionaries here. viz. Dr Clarke Dr. Haskell, Mr Clarke & myself, and we all approved them.

So far so well. Now the distinct impression that I have is that, before Mr Ostrander was written to, we consulted with the others by letter and with Mr Marsh verbally, and that they acquiesced But if I am assured that this impression is mistaken, I shall accept the correction.

It is possible that as time pressed, me may have thought that being half of the Mission, we could count on the others acquiescing; but I have no recollection of such a thought being in my mind. At any rate with the approval of those here, I did write and ask Mr Ostrander definitely for the educational work; and it is this that he has had in view in accepting.

I can only say that I regret very much the unintentional disrespect to the Mission that I have been guilty of in taking things for granted – if my impression about the others having been consulted proves incorrect. And I am all the more sorry that the thing should have happened in

connection with my nephew; for I hate anything like nepotism or wire-pulling. I would never have ventured to suggest his name, but, being his uncle, I was the natural one to write to him once the suggestion was made.

Still, if it is shown that I was premature & unauthorized in speaking on behalf of the Mission, I express my sincere regret and crave the pardon of all who have been treated with apparent neglect.

Yours most truly
Robt. Thomson.

8_ 1901
L 22 1901

Samokov, Bulgaria.
3rd July, 1901.

My dear Dr Barton,

You have heard how it has seemed necessary to postpone the holding of the Annual Meeting of our Mission until the 12th inst., in spite of the fact that we deem it to be very necessary to notify our new missionaries at the earliest possible date of the location that may be assigned to them. But in order that our action in regard to them may be communicated to them with the least possible delay, our Station thinks that the Mission will probably agree to telegraph you the decision. And so I have been asked to write you this letter with an explanation of the code that we shall use.

Dr Haskell thinks that, in addition to the ultimate location that we may assign the new missionaries, it is possible & even probable in regard to one of them (namely,

that one of them who is assigned to Macedonia) that we shall vote that he spend the first year either here or in Philippopolis for the purpose of learning the language. Accordingly, if after the missionary's name I add the name of only <u>one</u> town, you will understand that that missionary is appointed to that town & will go there at once. But if I add the names of <u>two</u> towns, you will understand that he is to spend his first year in the first-named town, & then is to be permanently located in the second-named.

Thus:— "Holway, Philippopolis, Salonica," would mean that the Holways are assigned to Salonica, but are to spend their first year in Philippopolis.

Again:— "Ostrander, Samokov," would mean that Mr Ostrander is assigned to this Station & is to come here at once.

Trusting that all will be clear, & that the decisions may reach our friends in plenty of time,

I am,

Yours very sincerely,

Robt. Thomson.

Samokov July 13/190

Samokov, Bulgaria.
3rd August, 1901.

My dear Dr Barton,

If I am spared to this time next year, it will then be ten years since I resumed work after my first furlough. I now desire to make application that, if all be well with us, I and my family may then be granted another year of furlough.

As it would have been rather late if I had left my application till after our next Annual Meeting, I submitted it to the Meeting that has just been held here; & you will see from the Minutes & the Letter to the Rooms that my application has cordially sustained by my associates. If the Prudential Committee grants my request, I propose to take the furlough as soon after the close of the next school year as possible.

I am already feeling in need of rest, as my work for the last three years has been particularly wearing. It is perhaps fortunate that lack of funds does not permit us to do any work in the Printing House this vacation: I am getting a little relief, & the great heat tells less. But I am sometimes rather troubled about my eyes also, & am anxious to give them some rest from incessant proof-reading.

It is too soon yet (supposing the furlough should be granted) to speak of plans in more than a very general way. But I should just like to remind you that our objective point would not be the United States, but Scotland. At the same time, as I should like to do my share of addressing missionary meetings, in the hope of rousing & stimulating interest in this work, & as there are relatives & friends in America whom I should be glad to see again, I trust that at least some of us may be permitted to cross the ocean.

Yours very sincerely,
Robt. Thomson.

Lamoka, Aug. 3, 1904
filed Aug. 23

Samokov, Bulgaria.
8th August, 1901.

My dear Dr Barton,

I think it right to send you a word in regard to Mr Stoyan Vatralsky & the decision which we, as Trustees of the Collegiate & Theological Institute here, reached in regard to him to-day.

Mr Vatralsky is a Bulgarian from this neighbourhood, an old student in this Institute, & was for a time a preacher in the Philippopolis field. Somewhere about 1886 he went to America; & he is pretty well known in the neighbourhood of Boston, where he has some warm friends. He graduated at Harvard, has done a good deal of lecturing, has published poetry (& possibly prose also) in some of the Boston papers, & altogether has rather distinguished himself. He came through a period of religious doubt, in which he went so far as to embrace Ingersollism, but finally recovered. He is a member of Dr Mackenzie's church (? of Charlestown), & is much thought of by the pastor. The Lanes also, of the family of Dr Clarke & Mrs Marsh of our Mission, are warm friends of his; & he has many other friends of whom I know nothing.

Samokov, Bul. Aug. 3, 1901

Just a year ago he came back to this country. The reason that he gave for his coming was most creditable. He said he was accustomed to speak much in America on "Duty"; but finally he felt that he had no right to speak on that subject till he had faced duty himself. Accordingly, though preferring life in America, he came to see if there was any work for him to do in his native land, determining that, if such work offered within a year, he would accept it & stay, if not, he would return with a clear conscience to America, & make that the land of his abode.

In anticipation of his coming our Annual Meeting at Salonica last year decided that we might — if we could — engage him as a teacher for this Institute, provided we first satisfied ourselves that Mr Vatralsky's theological views were not such as would prevent his cordial coöperation with us in our work.

The Bulgarian Evangelical Society, at its annual meeting held in Sliven this spring, when discussing the question of the resumption of the "Zornitza," voted Mr Vatralsky as Bulgarian editor. That is, they expected that if the paper was resumed at all, it would have a missionary as first editor;

& they voted Mr Vatralsky as second editor. This action, which we cordially approved, prevented our entering into negotiations with Mr Vatralsky to come to us as teacher till the "Zornitza" question was settled.

The question came up at our own recent Annual Meeting; & when, after full discussion, it turned out that the only way the paper could be resumed at present was by entrusting it to only one man (instead of two), & that man a Bulgarian, our Bulgarian brethren felt even more strongly than we did that they could not put Mr Vatralsky there alone, inexperienced as he is, & not having yet fully recovered the mastery of his own language. Mr Isanoff was therefore appointed.

Three or four days ago Mr Isanoff reached the decision to accept; whereupon we at once sent for Mr Vatralsky, & said we were ready to open up discussion of terms, &c., as to his coming here to teach. He arrived last night; & we spent all the forenoon to-day with him & in regard to him.

We never got the length of discussing his religious views, as Mr Vatralsky refused to accept the remuneration we offered. I wish to say that when we made him our offer we all of us had clearly in mind three things:-(1) That he is probably the most talented Bulgarian that the younger generation of Protestants has

produced; (2) that our Annual Meeting of two years ago instructed us to secure the best talent we could for the teaching force here; & (3) that Mr Vatralsky's friends in America would inevitably ask why we failed to engage him in the work when he came ready to enter it. And that we were influenced by these considerations is shown by the fact that, though he is unmarried, & untried as a teacher, we offered him to begin with the annual salary of 72 Liras, which is respectively 12 & 24 Liras more than we pay our other two unmarried Bulgarian teachers, both of whom are graduates of American Colleges, while one also took the course at Auburn Seminary. Some of us were ready to offer him as high as 84 Liras when he declined the 72. But Mr Vatralsky fixed his minimum at 100 Liras. We felt we could not give this. It is what we pay one of our experienced teachers who is married & has three well-grown children. It would cause discontent, & justly, amongst the other unmarried teachers. It would be a premium on going to America. And it would cause Mr Marsh to redouble the complaints he has for years persisted in, that the salaries we pay in these Schools here are too high compared with the salaries paid to pastors, preachers, & teachers in the field. Moreover, Mr Valralsky had

told us on another occasion that he had thoughts of marriage; so that very likely at the end of the first year he would marry & then demand 120 Liras, if not more.

It was with much regret that we arrived at this decision. We reached it deliberately & prayerfully; & we feel conscious of having done all that faithfulness to our trust permitted in order to secure Mr Vatralsky. We know the pressure of the small means & the hard times on our general staff of workers & on our pockets that try to help them out; & we know the state of the Board's Treasury.

You will probably hear questioning & criticism of our action, & possibly condemnation. So I have thought it right to put you in full possession of the facts. I trust our action will commend itself to you. In any case, I should be glad to hear your opinion.

We all like Mr Vatralsky, appreciate his gifts, & feel kindly towards him; & it is in no unkind spirit that I say that we all feel that the cause of the break-down of our negotiations is that Mr Vatralsky, having perhaps been a good deal made of in America, appears to value himself rather too highly.

Yours very sincerely,

Robt. Thomson.

Rev. Robert Thomson,

Samokov, Aug. 8. 1901

filed Aug. 26.

Samokov, Bulgaria.
19th September, 1901.

Dear Dr Daniels,

Your letter of the 30th August gave me great pleasure, & I thank you heartily for it.

I do feel, — & I may say it though Mr Ostrander is my nephew, — that we are to be congratulated on securing him for our Mission. With God's blessing, his gifts & his character will add much to our strength.

You were the first to communicate the news of his engagement; but a letter from him followed two or three days later, & gave further details. I am greatly rejoiced. He will be much better off, & the Mission will be the stronger. I met the Roys family when visiting in Lyons ten years ago; & I know that my sister & her husband think highly of them. It is a happy circumstance that my nephew & his wife will be from the same town & church & circle of friends.

Rev. Robert Thomson,

As to my wife & myself having been taken as the foreign representatives of a group of churches of the Orleans Conference, Vermont, we very cordially join in the arrangement, & trust it may lead to helping on to some extent the cause of missions in that district. We know about the Forward Movement, & cannot fail to be deeply interested in it. From what you wrote, I expect to hear shortly from Mr Morse. I shall therefore wait for a little in hope of receiving his letter. But if one does not come soon, I shall write first. There may be some difficulty about photos., as we have none left, & the last are not recent, while photos. taken in Samokov are apt to be caricatures. But we shall do our best to meet the wishes of our friends.

As you may imagine, all our thoughts & prayers these days are for our noble Miss Stone & her companion in captivity. All of us are doing everything that seems possible; but as yet we have no authentic accounts of their whereabouts. But God is in heaven, & He hears prayer.

Yours very sincerely,
Robt. Thomson.

Rev. Robert Thomson
Sept 19, 1901

JAN 30 1902
FEB 3 1902

c/M

Samokov, Bulgaria.
14th January, 1902.

My dear Dr Barton,

I returned last night from Sofia, bringing with me our new missionaries Mr & Mrs Ostrander, who arrived in the capital on the 11th. They have had a very pleasant journey all through, & have been favoured with exceptionally fine weather on making their first acquaintance with their field of labour. They seem in good health & spirits; & they have received a very warm welcome on all hands.

I found your letter of the 31st December awaiting me. It is good to have you back again; & I desire to join most heartily with all those who have welcomed you home from India.

I could wish that the subject in regard to which you wish a reply from me were a pleasanter one; but as you ask me about it, I must tell you the plain truth. I only wish, if Dr McKenzie is to know my reply, that he could understand that Mr Vatralski & I are old friends — of nineteen years ago, that

Mr. Vatralski

I have a warm regard for him, & that our relations are cordial; so that what I write I am compelled to write in honesty & under a sense of my responsibility as a missionary.

But first let me say that the Trustees of our Institute had their interview with Mr Vatralski on the 8th August, & that on the evening of the same day, anticipating just this criticism that is being passed upon us, I wrote you a full & particular account of the interview. The receipt of it was never acknowledged in your absence; & now, as you also make no reference to it, I fear it must have been lost. At Dr Haskell's request I made a copy of the letter & sent it to all our Stations to be read, & then gave it to our Station Secretary, Mr Baird, to file & keep. But unfortunately, in the upturn of his removal, & then in the distraction caused by Miss Stone's capture, he seems to have mislaid it; otherwise I would copy it for you again.

Now let me as briefly as possible reply to your letter.

I have heard that Mr Vatralski even makes it a matter of complaint that he was not appointed to a position in this Institute for the year 1900-1. But, aside from the facts that he had not reached the country when our session opened, & that we

could not tell whether he was fitted for, or would care for, the work of a teacher, our hands were bound by the action of our previous Annual Meeting, which, in view of Mr Vatralski's religious history, required us, before engaging him, to find out whether he held any views that would render cordial coöperation between him & us impossible.

Thus it came about that we first came into contact with Mr Vatralski at the Annual Convention of the Bulgarian Evangelical Society, held at Sliven last Easter. Of the feeling entertained towards him you may yourself judge from the fact that, when the question of the restarting of the Zornitza was discussed, & it was hoped that I or some other missionary would as heretofore be editor-in-chief, we (i.e., natives & missionaries together) voted unanimously that Mr Vatralski should be the assistant editor.

This question, however, could not be settled till our own Annual Meeting (of our mission) was held here at midsummer. Now please observe that the Annual Meeting of the Trustees of our Institute, at which teachers for the next school year are fixed on, was held as usual early in July, before the Annual Meeting of our Mission; yet, in view of the possibility that Mr Vatralski might, through the action of the Annual Meeting, be left free, (for we did not see how the Zornitza could

possibly be restarted,) we refrained from filling up the vacancy in our teaching staff, even though we had some earnest applicants for the position, & the postponement of making the appointment was somewhat risky for ourselves. That does not look like the wish to make him a sham offer with which he charges us.

The Annual Meeting of our Mission, in response to the strong pressure brought to bear upon it, decided to have the Zornitza started again, though its financial backing had to be of the slightest; but it could not see where a missionary could be spared to be its editor-in-chief. It therefore adopted the suggestion brought in by the appointed committee, that Mr Isanoff be made the sole editor. That committee had a majority of Bulgarian members; & although in the voting in our meeting only we missionaries could vote, every one of the numerous Bulgarians present, when speaking to the question, agreed that if there could be only one editor appointed, & he was to be a Bulgarian, then it must be Mr Isanoff. The reasons were evident. Mr Vatralski admitted that he had not yet recovered the free use of his own language: he was utterly inexperienced as an editor: he did not fully know the condition of his country. Mr Isanoff, on the other hand, is tried & has had long & successful experience, & is fully in touch with

the people. I am surprised that Mr Vatralski can venture to speak of disappointed hopes in this connection. But if he is disappointed, he has to thank the warmest & best of his own Bulgarian friends for it quite as much as us.

The very day the Annual Meeting adjourned we sent for Mr Vatralski; & on the 8th August our Trustees had a long interview with him, speaking kindly & cordially, but stating the simple facts of our position. We said that since the action of Annual Meeting left him free, we desired at once to offer him the vacancy in our teaching force (which, by the way, was not Mr Tsanoff's place, but Mr Bagranoff's). I shall say at once that we never got to the question of Mr Vatralski's religious views, as he broke off negotiations over the money question. How Mr Vatralski reconciles his action with what he wrote to his friend Mr Popoff of Sofia, before reaching the country, that he desired only to be in the work, no matter how modest the pay, he alone can tell. Mr Bagranoff, an unmarried man, educated in America, had been glad to serve for $22 a month with free room. Mr Mishaikoff, who now has the position, a married man with a family, & living in a hired house, is glad to serve for $30.80 a month; & he was a tried & successful

teacher with us before. We felt that if, in view of Mr Vatralski's superior talents & better education, we offered him — an unmarried man, & absolutely untried as a teacher — $30.00 a month & a free room, it was the most we were justified in doing the first year. Mr Marsh constantly complains that the "high" salaries we pay in these schools here are an injustice to the pastors, &c.; & the brethren of the Salonica & Monastir fields to some extent agree with him. So we could not offer more. But Mr Vatralski absolutely declined to consider the question, although in the fullest & kindest way we explained to him how we were situated. And I may add that, before reaching the money-question, he had shown that he considered himself too "big" for some of the surveillance duties attached to the position, though others perform them unquestioningly. He stated that the minimum he would accept was $36.66 a month, which is what we pay to Mr Gulumanoff, an experienced & successful teacher, with a well-grown family, living in a hired house. It turned out afterwards that Mr Vatralski is for some reason jealous of Mr Gulumanoff, & had determined in his own mind not to come to us for a cent less than the latter receives. Mr Isanoff's salary is double that of Mr Gulumanoff; but when Mr Vatralski has the same national reputation that

Mr Isanoff has, the same experience & success, twenty years of hard work behind him, & a family of the size of Mr Isanoff's, then he may expect Mr Isanoff's pay, which is exceptionally large. We made our offer earnestly & sincerely, "in good faith" in every sense of the word, & were truly disappointed when Mr Vatralski declined it.

Some two months ago, prompted by something or other of which I am wholly ignorant, Mr Vatralski wrote me a most offensive letter, although my family & I had shown him when here in the summer every kindness, attention, & hospitality. In replying to it I told him that I should try to bear it as a Christian, & not allow it to embitter the relations between us; but I said I felt bound to rebuke its offensive ~~statements~~ language & to repudiate its unfounded charges. Amongst the latter there was this same charge of our offer to him having been a "mock offer"; & I went over the ground with him again, & insisted that it was simply making us all liars to charge us with any such thing. I have had no answer from him, & when we have met we have not referred to the matter, & I have simply tried to be cordial & friendly with him.

The simple fact is that we have come to agree with Mr Vatralski's own best Bulgarian friends,

who have said to me repeatedly that he values himself far too highly. That is all I can say on this matter. I shall be glad to know your opinion.

Thank-you for your kind words in anticipation of our approaching furlough. I regret to say that for the last month I have been fighting against a break-down. My head troubles me often & badly. My colleagues are most kind, & I do what little I can to relieve the strain on me; but I confess I often feel doubtful whether I shall be able to do all my work for other six months. I hope you will understand that, if I have written little or nothing about Miss Stone & Mrs Isilka, it is only because I have felt obliged to leave that mainly to my colleagues. But in all the consultation, planning, & working here I have taken my full share, & with all my heart; for no brother could love Miss Stone better than I do. God grant us soon success. So in regard to other things, I have so much official writing to do, that I have felt unable to write much to the Rooms. I hope you will excuse me under the circumstances. I have written three short letters to the churches in Vermont that have taken us up. With cordial regards,

Yours most sincerely
Robert Thomson.

Rev. Robert Thomson, Scarsdale, Jan. 14, 1902

MAR 31 1902
MAY 9 1902

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Samokov, Bulgaria.
15th March, 1902.

My dear Dr Barton,

There are one or two things on which I should like to have a word with you.

Now that Miss Stone is restored to us in God's mercy, I trust that we (I speak generally of all, missionaries, consuls, & others) are to be spared a campaign of recrimination. There has been sorrow & trial enough already over the matter; & I hope that our happiness is not now to be marred. I have been minutely conversant with everything that was done in the case from first to last; & I cannot think of anything that now looks like a mistake. But if others should judge differently, what was done was always done after most careful & anxious consultation, & therefore I believe that any errors can not be called errors of judgment, but can only be classed as things which afterwards turned out to be errors. Moreover Miss Stone is a wo-

Rev. Robert Abbey

man who is able to evoke love & devotion to her person as few women can beyond their own family circles; & we all worked for her as though she had been our own sister. And happily, too, none of us ever had any experience in such work before, so that we had just to feel our way. I have not seen a single criticism yet, even of the most friendly kind, that I do not think would be set aside as foolish & ignorant, if not worse, by any one who knew the whole details of the case.

Then, I wish to remind you about that letter which you wrote to our Mission just before you started for India, I think, in which you offered us Rev. A. Richardson, lately of the U. J. Mission. At our Annual Meeting we asked that he should be sent to us. May I call your attention to what was said in regard to him in the Letter to the Rooms that accompanied the Minutes of our Meeting. I was one of those that consented to vote for Mr Halway being stationed at Salonica on the understanding that Mr Richardson was to come out to Monastir for the Albanian work. I have been always hoping that we should

hear something about this, especially since you returned from the East; but as nothing comes, I should like to ask what we are to expect in the matter. You will remember that since the two new missionaries (Messrs Halway & Ostrander) were granted us, Dr Riggs has died; so that the appointing of Mr Richardson would be no increase of our numbers.

Mr & Mrs Ostrander, who live with us, are making a good beginning on the language, & will, I hope, eventually get a good hold of it.

Then, I should like to set before you the position of our Mission Publication Department. It is necessary to keep clearly in mind why & on what terms the Publication Work was removed from Constantinople to this place. At the Annual Meeting in Monastir in 1896 Dr Haskell, then Director of our Institute here, positively said that unless more funds could be found for the Institute, it would have to be given up. Then the question was asked — If either the Institute or the Zornitza must be given up, which should be allowed to go? And the unhesitating though sorrowful

answer was — The Zornitza. Then it was that the decision was taken to stop the paper & to remove the Publication Work up here, because, out of the 400 Liras which the Pub. Dep. was then receiving, it could give 200 directly to the Institute, while a large part of the 200 which it reserved to itself — would indirectly help the Institute in the shape of wages paid in the Printing House to the boys that worked in it. The scheme worked admirably so far as the Institute was concerned, & also enabled us as a Mission to do all the printing that we wished to do except publishing the paper. I was able to reorganize the Department thoroughly, & think I may say that, on its own small scale, it is about as perfect as it could be. I was even able, without extra funds, to build the necessary addition to the Printing House, so that now we have storage room for all our publications, & are removing them from Constantinople so as to avoid further rent-charges at the Bible House.

Well, at our last Annual Meeting, in response to the strong demand for the starting again of the Zornitza, the Mission voted away half of our Publication Funds, giving

it to the Zornitza, & leaving us here with the other half, which at present amounts to only about 92 liras. What is the consequence? We have run only 2½ months of the year, & already boys who expected work in the Printing House are feeling the pressure, & are debating whether they can stay on. I am able to give very little work to be done; & even so I have fears that in the second half year we shall have to do even less than now. Then you must remember that much of our printing is in the shape of free tracts, which bring no financial return; & we need to replenish our stock of paper. I say nothing of our almost desperate need of a new printing machine. What are we to do? & what is the Institute to do to keep its poor students? The Religious Tract Society, London, has most kindly given us a slightly increased grant this year in response to my special appeal; but it is special for this year only, & at most can help us but a little. A fund raised for the support of the paper would set free the other half of our funds & put us at ease again; but is such a thing possible in these times? I should be thankful to hear what you can say to me on the subject, especially in view of anything I can do in my furlough to help.

Rev. Robt. Thomson
Lanarkshire, Scot. Nov. 15, 1902

Thank-you for your kind words to myself personally. I am very thankful to be able to report that the brief rest & change of the Christmas Vacation was so far beneficial to me that I no longer suffer actual pain in my head as I did for so long just before the vacation. But I am very wearied, & have little strength to fall back upon. However, my brethren have very kindly relieved me of my turn in preaching, so that I hope I may be able to hold on. Nothing but the most absolute necessity would justify my leaving before mid-summer, for it would throw heavy burdens on colleagues who already are full of work, & it would disorganize a good many things.

To our supporting group of churches in Orleans Co., Vt., I have written that I hope to see them in the spring & early summer of 1903. That is, if my plan is approved, I would be in Scotland from midsummer of this year till March or April of next year, & then visit America.

With kindest regards,

Yours very sincerely,

Robt. Thomson.

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APR 28 1902
MAY 9 1902

Samokov, Bulgaria.
12th April, 1902.

My dear Dr Barton,

Your letter of the 28th March reached me a few days ago. After bringing the matter before our colleagues, the choice of a boy to be the recipient of the aid ($25.15) sent by the Sunday School at Farmington, Ct., was made this morning; and I am now writing to Miss Hart to tell her about him.

As you will see from the enclosed letter for Mr Morse, this contribution comes at a time when by God's blessing I can send very encouraging word about the Institute.

I trust, dear Dr Barton, that you will excuse the liberty that I am taking to-day of enclosing this letter for Mr Morse to you, & asking you to consider it in the first place as a letter to yourself. I do not possess any apparatus for copying letters; yet these weeks when work presses & accumulates, & when head & strength threaten again to fail, I feel

unable to copy it for you separately. If you think fit, please have a copy of it made by your secretary, & keep it as an integral part of this letter. I am sure you will rejoice with us.

Thank-you very much for the concluding part of your letter. Your experience from the Asia Minor field is specially valuable. Of course, in our case, revolutionary ideas are not entertained against the government of the country in which we live, but against that of Turkey. Still, the practical influence on the conduct & scholarship of the boys is much the same. Even before this revival, however, I by no means took a discouraging view of the condition of our school this year; rather, quite the reverse. Now, I feel happy & confident. The blessing that God has given us will more than offset the evil that still remains amongst us. And then, as I had recently to explain to the father of one of our boys, if bad boys are sent us here by parents who love them, in the hope that here they may be redeemed, we are bound, with all due precautions & watchfulness & wisdom, to give our endeavours for them at least enough time to have a fair trial.

I enclose a copy of a letter that this Station received yesterday. Evidently it is intended to be considered by us at our Annual Meeting; & we have sent copies to the other Stations. For myself I feel that, with God's help, we <u>must</u> accept it in the spirit in which it claims to be written, &, whatever line our reply may take, must try not to wound in return any more than we can possibly help. But the letter is most painful & astonishing: a more ill-considered document I have seldom seen. But of course I do not propose to discuss it here. We shall doubtless give you some idea of the reply that our Meeting frames. But as this will reach you just about the time our Meeting opens, I would ask you to remember us specially in prayer & particularly in asking that we may be guided to frame such a reply as shall be both effective in weight & thoroughly brotherly in spirit. After all, this, I daresay, is nothing to what the Asiatic Turkey Missions have gone through.

Believe me,

Yours very sincerely,

Robt. Thomson.

Rev. Robert Thomson,
Samokov, Apr. 12, 1902

Communication from the Bulgarians to the Eu. F. M.

Copy

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Samokov, Bulgaria.

12th April, 1902

Dear Brother Morse,

I wrote you quite recently, and now send you only a few lines to tell you of the recent visit of Rev. Dr. F.E. Clark, founder of the Y.P.C.E. Society, with his wife. They arrived on Saturday evening of last week, and left on Tuesday morning of this week. The two days they spent were very full with addresses in the church, in our two schools separately, and in meetings and coversations of a more private character. Aside from the earnestness of Dr. Clark, which was to be expected, I was specially struck with the extreme simplicity of his addresses, and with their great wisdom and tact. I could see that our boys were greatly impressed. Several of us followed up his addresses with personal talks with such of the boys as seemed to us to be hopeful to deal with. Late on the Monday evening three young men came to my room and desired to settle the great question. I tried to make the matter very clear to them, and led up to asking them if they were not ready then and there to yield to the Saviour. They said they were; and they knelt down, and each one in turn, in a few words of heartfelt prayer, gave himself up. I followed with a brief prayer, and then some further words of counsel and encouragement, anf at last they went away happy. It was a great joy to be able to tell Dr. Clark of it the next morning as he started for Philippopolis.

On the Tuesday evening the three boys came to me again at the same late hour bringing other three with them. The work of the previous night was repeated, and the three new ones likewise dedicated themselves to Christ. On the Wednesday we had further private conversations; and the church prayer meeting that evening was such as we have never had here before. The next day other two boys gave themselves to

Christ. Of these eight, six are from Protestant families(one being a brother of the Mrs. Tsilka who was taken by the brigands), and all are of the older and leading boys. Besides these we know of four who are seriously impressed,three of them being from Protestant families,and the other perhaps the wor st boy left in the school since the expulsion in January. I like that gathering in of the Protestant boys. Of course we rejoice over the others with a peculiar joy; yet it is always a special pain to me to see the children of the first converts keeping aloof from their parents' Saviour.

The boys have started a prayer meeting of their own,held for half an hour every evening just before bed time. It has been attended by 20 or 30,and seems to be the means of spreading and deepening the interest in the school. The quiet and interest at morning prayers is a great encouragement. I am to preach tomorrow on "Lay hold on eternal life". Would that God may use the word for bringing still others to the decision.

In the Girls' School they say that, with the exception of one only, every one was deeply impressed. Yet, as the girls are of a rather emotional nature, they don't wish to judge prematurely as to results ; but they are very hopeful.

Of course in our school also everything may not last. We are prepared for disappointments. But our hope and prayer is that we may have none. Join with us in praying that the grace that has called these dear young hearts may keep them every moment.

Within ten days we start for our Annual Meeting at Monastir,and close on our return will follow the rush of work that leads up to the end of the school year. I fear it is quite unlikely that I can write you again before July,especially as I am feeling very tired again,and I have to be careful with my head.

With brotherly saluations to all the circle of supporting churches, I am,

Yours very sincerely,

[Signed] Robert Thomson.

Rev. Robert Thomson,

Samokov, Apr. 12, 1902

THE CASE OF MISS ELLEN M. STONE.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

AFTER five and a half months of detention, Miss Stone, with her companion, Mrs Tsilka and her child, was liberated by the brigands on the morning of Sunday, 23d February, at Stroumnitza, Central Macedonia, after the payment of a modified ransom. Miss Stone's capture and detention do not constitute a case of ordinary brigandage, but have a political character, which give them a certain significance. The case may even be called important; and although Miss Stone is an American citizen and an American missionary, her case is in most aspects more important to European Governments than to that of the United States. The facts should be clearly understood. The capture took place on Turkish soil. But her captors were Bulgarians. By this it is not meant that they were all, or even necessarily any of them, subjects of the Principality, but that they belonged to the Bulgarian race, a large number of which are still under Turkish rule in Thrace and Macedonia. That they were Bulgarians is put beyond doubt by the broken Turkish with which they tried to conceal their nationality when doing the deed; by their bearing towards and treatment of the ladies; by their murder of an inconvenient Pomak (Mohammedan Bulgarian) in their hands, cursing him with the word "Kalpav" (spurious one); by their selection of the Bulgarian town of Samokov for the opening of their negotiations with Miss Stone's associates; by their compelling Miss Stone to write in Bulgarian the letters they dictated to her; by the immunity from pursuit or molestation that they enjoyed when on the Bulgarian side of the frontier; by the fact that Bulgarians carried to them bread, tobacco, &c.; by their long endeavour to arrange for the payment of the ransom on the safer Bulgarian soil; and finally by the very fact that, when both Bulgaria and Turkey were determined that the ransom should not be paid on their soil, the brigands at last braved the insecurity of Turkey, and on Turkish territory concluded the matter, in the hope that thereby they might avoid an international complication for Bulgaria.

Were this proof insufficient, more is forthcoming. The capture is known to have been planned in Bulgaria by members of the body called the Macedonian Committee. Miss Stone attended the annual meeting of her mission last July at Samokov, and thence proceeded to Bansko, on Turkish territory, to hold certain meetings. It was on her way from Bansko to return to her home in Salonica that she was taken; and her movements had been watched all the time. A well-known Bulgarian, writing from Sofia to a New York journal, admits that the threat made by Sarafov, late President of the Macedonian Committee, has been adopted by these members, and that they propose, as he said, to make the stay of Europeans in Macedonia an impossibility. He says that the release of Miss Stone will be followed by the capture of any German, Italian, &c., on whom they can lay their hands. Another Bulgarian, a member of the Macedonian Committee, which he boasts is 60,000 strong and well-organised, writes in a Californian newspaper that all Macedonians love Miss Stone, but they captured her first, to compromise the name of Turkey; second, to secure funds for their cause; and, third, to deal a blow against the European Governments. His geography is as poor as his morality, but his meaning is clear. Moreover, the emissary sent to negotiate with the Samokov missionaries, who associated himself with the brigands by speaking of "we" and "us," said that their cause was holy, and that if the missionaries knew what it was they would be glad to help it by paying the sum asked for. If the brigands wished to conceal who they were they should have selected a more careful representative.

It follows that, if not on the present executive, at least on members of the Macedonian Committee is to be laid the responsibility for the capture and detention of Miss Stone. This Committee is one of which the inception was wholly legitimate, its aim deserving of sympathy, and its methods of working unobjectionable. Sympathising with those Bulgarians who remain under Turkish oppression, it agitated for their liberation, and in particular for the re-creation of the Bulgaria of the San Stefano Treaty. Political ambition doubtless mingled with humanitarian feelings; but the knowledge that the Christian population of Thrace and Macedonia is preponderatingly Bulgarian doubtless justified them to themselves in calling ambition by a milder name. But as years [illegible] the Macedonian Committee became more powerful in numbers and influence, and, on the other hand, people grew tired, especially under increasing poverty, of subscribing to a cause that made no progress and seemed quite unlikely to meet with present success, questionable methods began to be practised. At first the Committee turned its hand against the Bulgarians themselves. It became a tyrannizing [illegible]

committees became more powerful in numbers and influence, and, on the other hand, people grew tired, especially under increasing poverty, of subscribing to a cause that made no progress and seemed quite unlikely to meet with present success, questionable methods began to be practised. At first the Committee turned its hand against the Bulgarians themselves. It became a terrorising, blackmailing Committee, extorting funds from all and sundry; it overawed Governments; it dictated policies; it defied authority. But when at last even the Bulgarian worm turned, and this tyranny was resented, then it determined to see what it could do in other directions. The Great Powers, the Signatories of the Berlin Treaty, were selected as victims. These Powers had failed to insist on the promised reforms in Macedonia. They therefore were responsible for the sufferings of the Macedonians. Accordingly they must be made to feel the misery of the state of things which their neglect had perpetuated. This was the reason why they determined to seize Europeans in Macedonia, and to hold them for ransom or death.

What has been the attitude of Bulgaria towards this policy in general and the capture of Miss Stone in particular? One of the writers before referred to declares that "with the Macedonian movement every Bulgarian sympathises." By this he means the endeavour to secure the liberation of Macedonia. He denounces the capture of Miss Stone as an atrocious crime. It is to be hoped that most Bulgarians would join in this sentiment. Many are known to share it. But anything like general and generous indignation, anything like vigorous denunciation, anything like prompt and common self-dissociation from the act, anything like an expression of sympathy, either on the part of the Government, the nation, or the Committee, has been wholly wanting. One paper, the "Nov Vake," of Sofia, did, two or three months after the event, publish a full and gratifying protest; the rest contented themselves with hypocritically denouncing every one who said the brigands were Bulgarians. One notorious sheet, the "Vecherna Poshta," made the case a subject of low jests and heartless cartoons. Worse than this, it secured, presumably through betrayal of trust in Government offices, all communications, however private, that passed on the subject, published them, and thus frustrated all action. Indeed, it became the brigands' organ, printing items that it could have received from none but them or their confederates. The Government insisted that there was no proof that Bulgaria was in any way implicated, and limited its efforts to making the brigands give up the intention of either liberating the captives or receiving the ransom on Bulgarian soil. The army, with thousands of Macedonians amongst its officers and in its rank and file, would have done no serious work against the brigands had any been asked of it. The Macedonian Committee was feared. The man on the street thought the capture rather a clever stroke, and said, "If they get the money, the brigands will have done a good thing." The Russian Consul-General in Sofia said to the American Diplomatic Agent, "It serves Miss Stone right. What business had she to come as a missionary to a Christian people? Let her supporters pay."

Undoubtedly the Government and people of Bulgaria as a whole are not to be blamed for this outrage (unless indirectly, as having connived at previous lawlessness on the part of the Macedonian Committee, and as having permitted it to become too strong for them); but their reputation for chivalry and honesty must suffer. Possibly the present executive of the Macedonian Committee may not be directly implicated in the matter, though it can hardly be doubted that they knew of the plan. But that the plot was the work of members of that Committee can admit of no question. And what they have done in Miss Stone's case they propose to do with any European who may fall into their hands.

What will the Great Powers do when the Macedonian Committee thus throws down the gauntlet to them? It is to be hoped that they will do two things. First, that they will show the Bulgarian Government that they will not tolerate the continued existence of a body which has adopted such methods as the Macedonian Committee has adopted, nor indeed the unrestricted continuance of a Government which has permitted the Committee to get the upper hand of it. Second, that they will proceed and go to the root of the matter, doing for Macedonia what they have found Turkey determined not to do; or, better, repeating in Macedonia the work they did in Crete; or, best of all, giving the Bulgarian race full justice and freeing them once and for all from the abominations of Turkish oppression by creating anew the Bulgaria of the San Stefano Treaty.

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freshness, and melody, the quartet is not Slavic enough for the music to be confined to the limits of this art form. That Baron D'Erlanger has something to say cannot be doubted. His mistake in this instance is that he has chosen the wrong medium for expression, and he continues long after he has finished all that is worth saying. Led by Mr Tivadar Nachez, the string parts were not played so well as they might have been. The quartet party were much better in the opening Beethoven quartet, and Mr Nachez's solo—a Bach sonata—displayed plenty of good tone, even if there was too much temperament for this composer. Miss Evelyn Suart was the pianist, and her fresh and delightfully clear touch was well exhibited in an arietta by Leo and a Rubinstein study. Mr Carl Fuchs also contributed two slight pieces [illegible] a magnificent in-

Samokov, Bulgaria.
17th April, 1902.

My dear Dr Barton,

I keep constantly forgetting the request of Consul General Mr Dickinson, Constantinople, that we missionaries should urge upon you our views of Miss Stone's case, in order that you may make in Washington such representations as you may think best. But as I am to-day reminded of my duty, I venture simply to send you the enclosed, which is an article I contributed to an Edinburgh paper as soon as we heard of Miss Stone's release. From it you will see that I would consider the Bulgarian Government indirectly responsible, because it connives at the lawlessness of the Macedonian Committee, & has allowed that Committee to become too strong to be controlled. The ransom, I suppose (though I am no jurist), can be sought from Turkey alone; but I feel that the strongest kind of pressure should be brought on Bulgaria to see to it that the Macedonian Committee confines itself to legitimate methods of working even when attempting to bring about a revolution in Turkey.

Believe me, Yours most sincerely,
Robt. Thomson.

Rev. Robert Thomson,
Samokov, Apr. 17, 1902

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Samokov, Bulgaria.
7th July, 1902.

My dear Dr Barton,

Ten days ago we closed another academic year of our C. & T. Institute. From the Scientific Course only one student graduated on this occasion; and as he has a bad stammer he was excused from speaking. From the Theological Course four regular students graduated, and one special student took a certificate. The speaking of this class was excellent, while in the case of two of them it was decidedly above the average. One of these two has been called to minister for a year to the church in Bansko, with a view to becoming eventually its pastor. The other, who belongs to Northern Bulgaria, has with our consent accepted a call to work in the Methodist field. Of the other three, one will travel for a month or two as agent of the "Zornitza", and then will work, as one of the other two also expects to work, in the field of the Salonica Station, both of them being Macedonians. The fifth will be

here again another year. This is an unusually quick, easy, and satisfactory settlement of our theological graduates; and we have great hopes that all of these new labourers will, with God's blessing, do good work for their people.

In spite of the trying Stone case which overshadowed us so long, & in spite of some disappointments & troubles in the Institute itself, I think the year must be reckoned a very satisfactory one. The maximum on our roll came to 68; and we closed with 61 in attendance. God sent us some young men of good & decided character, & some of Christian aggressiveness. From the first the balance of power lay with the good, and right influences have been strong through the year. Our teachers have interested themselves in the boys, and themselves & the boys in work for others, as never before, & with the happiest results. Our preaching has been specially spiritual, searching, and earnest. And then came the crowning blessing of the twelve conversions in connection with the visit of Dr J. E. Clark. Spiritually it is a year to be very thankful for.

Generally the work in the classes has been good, and in the case of half a dozen individuals

honourably distinguished. Yet I regret to say that so large a number as 26 out of the 61 fail to pass for the next upper classes. But a considerable proportion of these fail only in one subject, & others in only two; and I expect that all, or most of these, will pass in the second examination in September. The rest, if they fail, will deserve to, for they have been poor students; and the largeness of the number of non-passes is due to increased strictness in maintaining a good standard of scholarship.

I had thought that, in view of my furlough, my connection with the Institute was to cease. But when I tendered my resignation, the Trustees voted not to accept it, and asked me to withdraw it. They thought that it would not be well to report to the Government frequent changes in the Directorship, & so requested me to continue in it till Mr Ostrander should be ready to take it up. They appointed Mr Baird to do the work of Director during my absence, & indicated that they thought it might be well, if I am spared to return, that I should hold on for at least a year, so that Mr Ostrander should become Director at soonest

in the summer of 1904. This latter is a detail that need not be settled now; but in accordance with the desire expressed I withdrew my resignation, & so remain Director of the Institute.

I saw my wife & four children off for Scotland from Sofia last Tuesday. They are to spend a month in Switzerland on the way. I remain on till the end of this month to finish up various works on hand in the press, and to be at the Summer School, which meets here from the 17th to the 30th inst., & before which I have to read a paper. Then I hope with my oldest son to start out by way of Constantinople & the sea route, reaching Scotland some time in September. I shall report to you & Mr Wiggin on arriving. My plan is to spend the winter in Scotland, and to visit America, D.V., from March to June of 1903. Though often very tired, I am thankful to say that I seem to possess good recuperative powers. I have again recovered from the heavy strain of the first half of June; & I trust that the year before me may quite restore my working powers for further service. Believe me, with kindest regards,

Yours very sincerely,

Robt. Thomson.

Samokov, July 7. 1902
Rec'd July 21.

AUG 1 1902

Samokov, Bulgaria.
1st August, 1902.

My dear Dr Barton,

I hope I am not going too far. As you kindly made no objection to my sending to you once before a letter to the Vermont Orleans Conference that supports us, with the hope that you would have it copied & count it a letter to yourself, I venture to do so once more with the enclosed. I trust I may not require again to trespass on your kindness.

At the close of the letter you will find what there is to tell of my plans.

Believe me,
Yours very sincerely
Robt. Thomson.

Samokov, Bulg. Aug 7. 1902

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Transferred from [illegible]

Aug. 1, 1902

Samokov, Bulgaria, Aug. 1, 1902.

Rev. C. H. Morse,

North Craftsbury, Vt.

Dear Brother,-

I find that it will be easier for me to write you a little about the Summer School now than after we set out on our travels.

I cannot tell you as fully about the gathering as I should have liked to, as I was not able to be present very often. I was hard at work finishing my book, every hour sacrificed from which meant so much. Still, I met a good deal with the friends, and heard about what had been going on.

The attendance was very encouraging. Without counting young children, we had eight of our friends from the Methodist field, thirty-seven from our own field(excluding Macedonia), and our own large station and friends in the town. In this way, even when the subjects were not such as to attract non-protestants, we of ourselves mustered from ninety to a hundred, and meetings with a smaller attendance than that were not seen. When outsiders were attracted, these figures were doubled and more than doubled.

It was a great pleasure to recognize once more amongst ourselves, and to give a practical demonstration before others of, the absolute harmony, the unity of spirit and identity of aim, between our Methodist friends and ourselves. Their preachers occupied our pulpits and platforms and taught the same truths that we teach; while their "Amens" and "Grant it, Lord-s" as frequently and fervently punctuated the prayers offered by our people as by their own. Not a single point of difference came up during the sessions; and just

as we, three years ago, felt deeply the warm and hospitable welcome that they extended to us at Lovetch, so they expressed themselves as feeling the welcome which we, certainly in no half-hearted way, extended to them.

Spiritually the gathering has been high-toned, warm, and helpful. Every day, Sundays included, there were prayer-meetings for an hour before taking up the lectures and debates. These were well sustained, and frequent reference was made by one and another in the course of the sessions to the cheer and stimulus obtained from them. We were brethren dwelling together in unity; and the precious ointment of the Spirit flowed down upon our heads and to the skirts of our garments.

The subjects of the lectures were varied, but all of practical value in some way or other, especially for us in our work. They included discussions of matters scientific, social, spiritual, and theological,- matters relating to the family, the young, the church and its work, and the pastor and his wife. They were all earnestly, and in degrees ably, presented, and were discussed in a most interesting because practical fashion. It is only right to mention in particular the honor accorded to the opening lecture by Mr. Vatralski on "Socialism:- Its Truths and Untruths". It attracted the largest gathering of any, amongst whom were many prominent citizens not of our community, and, of course, the leaders of the Socialists. And so able was the lecture felt to be, that Mr. Vatralski was asked by these outsiders, to repeat it for the benefit of many who had not heard it. This he did, in our church; and amongst the many who attended it were the District Governor, the Mayor, several officers

and government officials, many of the national teachers, and a crowd of the general public. It was a fine lecture, keen, but generous and impartial, fearless, yet restrained, and simple, strong, and manly in its evangelicalism. Special mention should also be made of the sermon preached on the second Sunday by Mr. Fournadjieff of Kustendil on "The part played by the Church in the Civilization of the West". It was a very admirable statement; and though the sermon of the Methodist brother on the previous Sunday was the one that would help a sinner to find salvation, this was the one that would dispel the doubts and objections, the ignorance and the prejudice of those who need first of all to learn that the church has anything to give them that is worth seeking after.

The bright warm weather with which the gathering was favored permitted of abundant relaxation and amusement in out-door games, walks, and excursions, and an evening reception on one of the lawns, when addresses of welcome were delivered in Bulgarian and English, and a brief program of song, etc., was gone through with.

Perhaps the strongest impression that remains is that of thankfulness and encouragement. It is no small thing to see gathered together such a numerous, such an earnest, and such a capable band of men and women, all united in working for the spiritual regeneration of their land. I could not have seen such a sight when I came first to the field nearly twenty-one years ago. The progress is slow, but steady; and it does one immense good to be present from time to time at such rallies. We see each other, and we see God with us, and we take courage.

4-Rev. C. H. M.

I have been detained longer over my book than I expected. The M.S. was finished only a week ago. The printing will be finished next week, and the first copies will issue from the press either the same week or the week after. I hope to get away by the 16th or 17th, and to reach Glasgow by the end of September. I should be glad to have something from you awaiting me there. My address will be:- Care of Mrs. Dickson, 6 Buckingham Buildings, Hillhead, Glasgow, Scotland.

Trusting that my letter about our Commencement reached you, and with cordial regards to all in the Conference, I am,

Yours very sincerely,

Robert Thomson.

(Copy)

Sarnokov, Aug. 1, 1902

HARRY WADE HICKS.

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OCT 6 1902

Mrs Dickson's
6 Buckingham Buildings,
Hillhead,
Glasgow, Scotland.
24th Sept., 1902.

My dear Dr Barton,

I trust that you received the letter that I sent you, & the one that I sent through you to our supporting churches in Vermont, just before leaving Samokov. I reported on the Summer School. I also sent you a copy of my Bulgarian "Method for Learning the English Language," the completing of which detained me so long. I hope it reached you safely.

My journey has been delightful as regards weather, &c.; but I had a good deal of trouble with my head during the earlier part. Latterly I have felt relieved. I need rest & recuperation, & hope to get both. It is a joy to be in the home land again, & amongst old friends, & renewing many privileges.

As I do not think of crossing to America till about the first week of April next (D. V.), I need not now consult about plans.

I am not quite sure whether I should write to you, or direct to Mr Wiggin, in regard to money

matters for this next year. I have decided in favour of Mr Wiggin, but enclose the letter herewith in case you need to see it.

I trust that the approaching Annual Meeting may bring a great blessing on the Board & all its work. Oberlin is a missionary centre. I hope it may both be itself revived, and be the means of a revival of our churches.

Believe me, with kindest regards from my wife and myself,

Yours very sincerely,
Robt. Thomson.

Glasgow, Sept. 24, '02

Eastern

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I am, yours very sincerely
Robt. Thomson.

Glasgow, Scotland.
20th October, 1902.

My dear Dr Barton,

I have to thank you for your letter of the 6th inst. It seems, however, to confirm the suspicion that has grown in my mind lately, that one of my letters from Samokov failed to reach you. You acknowledge a letter from me of the 7th July, and a post-card accompanying my book which were sent from Philippopolis on the 13th August. But besides these I wrote just after the close of the Summer School (probably the letter must have been dated in the first days of August) giving a pretty full account of the Summer School. It is true that the letter was addressed to Mr Morse, North Craftsbury, Vt., of the group of churches that have undertaken our support; but as you had once before allowed me to make one letter serve both you & Mr Morse, I ventured on that occasion also, under pressure of work, to send the letter for him under cover to you, asking you to consider it as for yourself also. I shall be sorry if it has been lost, for I gave the account of the Summer School while it

was fresh on my mind, and I had hoped that besides serving for you & the Vermont churches, the letter, or parts of it, might possibly appear in the "Herald". No one else seems to have sent you anything on the subject.

I rejoice to hear of the encouragement as to the receipts of the Board. God grant that the increase may continue and grow. How much need for it there seems to us to be! We had the recent Annual Meeting much in our thoughts & prayers. We shall hope to hear that it was a time of blessing. The one thing that can keep the Church's treasury steadily supplied is the steady maintenance of its spiritual life.

We too have felt anxious about the Macedonian situation; but the incident you report from Mr Marsh does not seriously alarm me. Written threats like that & the one sent to Dr Clarke two years ago amount to no more than surface indications of a ferment beneath. I am told this morning that there are rumours of an agreement between Russia & Turkey to suppress the Macedonian Committee. I trust the rumour may prove true. The Committee is now little else than a blackmailing, terrorizing, secret body; and none would be more thankful to be relieved of its tyranny than the mass of the population of Bulgaria, & even, as I heard recently, of Macedonia itself.

With united kindest regards from us all,

HARRY WADE HICKS

Glasgow, Oct. 20, 1902

Rec'd FEB 25 1903 353

Ans'd FEB 26 1903

Mrs Dickson's,
6 Buckingham Buildings,
Hillhead, Glasgow.
12th February, 1903.

My dear Dr Barton,

I have been in correspondence with the friends of our supporting churches in Vermont; and after the letter that I received from the chairman of their Missionary Committee the other day I am now in a position to give you a sketch of what I have planned for my visit to America. But I consider it a plan subject to your approval; for my chief desire is to use my time when in America in working for the mission cause.

In the first place, it seems clear that I must go alone. The children attend school here. There is no one with whom we could leave them. And my wife feels that she must remain beside them. We are both sorry for this on several accounts, chiefly that the Vermont friends cannot make her acquaintance; but on the other hand it will be cheaper for the Board, & I am sorry to see from the February "Herald" that that is a consideration which needs to be reckoned with in these times.

Glasgow, Feb. 12, 1903

Then, I had wished if possible to have the Easter vacation with the children here that we might visit Loch Lomond side for a few days. They have from April 11th to 19th free; so that I proposed to take the first steamer sailing after that date.

This fits very well into the arrangement suggested from Vermont. They would like me to spend the five Sundays of May amongst them; and as the first Sunday is May 3rd, that would enable me to reach in good time, & leave me a day or two to spend in Boston, &c., on the way.

Their Annual Conference meets on the 2nd & 3rd June, and I would remain for that. After that time I should like to make addresses, as far as possible, in such places and at such times as you might think best.

So far as my personal relations are concerned, I must visit my sister in Lyons, N. Y. (Mr Ostrander's mother); and if I possibly can afford it I ought to make a brief visit to relatives in Hamilton, Ont., Canada. I ought to visit my Presbytery at Newark, N. J.; and if Miss Dodd is at the time in Montclair I should like to see her to talk about some Scutari College matters, as I am on the Advisory Board. Then, my dearest friend, my Seminary chum, is a professor in

Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Me., & I should like to see him.

As I ought to be back at Samokov by about the 20th August, & there will be some things to arrange here about the three oldest children, whom we shall have to leave behind us, I feel that I ought not to be later of leaving America than perhaps the 25th July. Accordingly I shall have to arrange these visits in the time between the 4th June & the 24th July.

Now if there are churches in the neighbourhoods of these places in which you would like me to speak, or if there is any other work that I could do for the cause in connection with these visits, I should count it a privilege as well as a duty to undertake it. I have told my sister that I leave the date of my visit to her open, as I wish it to fit in most economically in time & money with any plan that you might suggest to me for work.

I am not idle here, but I am beginning to feel rested. It is some time now since I had any head trouble. I have had one or two opportunities of speaking about our work, & may have more; & I have just finished a brief article that I was asked to prepare on "Politics & Religion in & around Macedonia," a copy of which I hope to send you when it is published. I have managed to overtake a good deal of reading; but the arrears are still great.

I regret that I do not know Miss Stone's address. May I ask you to be kind enough to forward the enclosed to her. I also enclose a letter for Mr Wiggin.

We are all well; & my wife joins with me in cordial greetings.

Believe me,
Yours very sincerely,
Robt. Thomson.

Glasgow, Feb. 12, 1903

Rev. Robert Thomson,

REC'D JUN 2 1903
ANS'D JUN 5 1903

On tour in Vermont.
30th May, 1903.

My dear Dr Barton,

Your note of the 27th has just reached me. I am glad to hear that we are to return to our field; & I shall hope to be back in Samokov by the 29th August. My wife may have to delay for a month or six weeks after me.

I think we shall be glad of a little help towards a

refit, but shall ask as small a sum as possible. I should like to write & ask my wife about it; so that, unless there is a reason for informing you of the amount required immediately, I shall be able to tell you in about a month.

My work amongst this Orleans County group of churches is now almost at an end. I have had a most cordial welcome everywhere, &

have been very thankful to find so generally throughout the churches a spirit of genuine interest in the work. Sometimes the warmest interest is shown in the smallest, most out-of-the-way, & most unexpected places. Nowhere have I found a pastor without at least a few — often many — who are warm, earnest, Christian workers, & cordially back & support him in every good work. I am thankful to know that my visits are believed to have been

helpful. I trust the stimulus may be permanent.

I shall write you again before leaving this part of the country.

Believe me, with cordial regards,

Yours very sincerely

Robt. Thomson.

Rev. Robert Thomson

REC'D JUN 5 1903

Franklin: Vt.
3rd June, 1903.

ANS'D JUN 5 1903

My dear Dr Barton,

I have now finished the work that was specially planned for me to do here at this time. I feel much encouraged by it, & have great hopes that good will result in Orleans County which will make itself felt in the Board's Treasury & in the work abroad.

In Orleans County I spoke in 21 different places 37 times including last night's address at the Conference. To-night I have also spoken here at this

Conference. To-morrow I go to Waterbury, Vt., to visit Miss Graves, an old member of our Mission; & I expect to speak at the church prayer-meeting in the evening. On Friday I proceed to Randolph, Vt., where I am to speak on Sunday the 7th, & possibly at a social gathering an evening previous. On Monday the 8th I leave for my sister's.

I have been much pleased with both the Conferences, though specially with that of Orleans Co., which seemed to me of a very high spiritual tone. But much earnestness & much practical wisdom has charac-

terized both assemblies.

At the same time, I shall now be glad of a rest at my sister's. After leaving her I must spend a few days in New York City & New Jersey; & then I hope to be in Boston from about the 2nd or 3rd July till I sail on the 28th. I have just arranged with your brother that my visit to my old seminary chum at his cottage on Greensboro Lake in July shall include (D.V.) Sunday the 19th of that month. So please note that I ought to be absent on that trip from the 16th to the 22nd July. I have also promised a visit some time to Wellesley, & should very much like to visit my nephew's supporting

church at Brockton. These & other possible visits we can arrange about when I reach Boston.

And now, please note that my address from now till the 23rd June will be c/o Rev. Dr Ostrander, 102 William Street, Lynn, N.Y. After that I may be addressed c/o the New-York District Secretary, Dr Creegan, till the 1st July.

I am greatly grieved over the death of young Mrs Haskell, — for the sorrow to the family, the loss to the mission, & the further loss that it may entail.

Believe me,

Yours very sincerely

Robt. Thomson.

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Rev. Robert Thomson
Ans'd JUN 15 1903
c/o Rev. L. A. Ostrander, D.D.,
102 William Street,
Lyons : N. Y.
13th June, 1903.

Ans'd JUN 15 1903

My dear Dr Barton

I have to thank you for your letter of the 5th inst. with its enclosure, which I found awaiting me here.

I wish to ask you if you have observed in the Minutes of the last Annual Meeting of our Mission that a vote was passed authorizing me "to endeavour to raise a sum of money which, when added to the $800 of the $1000 on hand for the Industrial Department,

would enable the Trustees of the Collegiate & Theological Institute of the Mission to purchase a suitable printing-press & other supplies for Samokov." As you have not referred to this in writing to me, I venture to call your attention to it, because, as I told you, our foreman printer has reported to me that the present press is in such a bad condition that it takes him about two hours to set each chase for printing, & even then the impressions are not good. I presume the Prudential Committee will first need to endorse this authorization, but after that it seems to me that I would need to be given a list of persons to whom to appeal in trying to raise the money; for I don't believe that any state-

ment & general appeal made from a pulpit would be of any use. Can you furnish me with a list of persons in New York & Boston who would be likely to be interested to help? My time is very limited: I sail from Boston on the 28th July.

My present plan is to be here & in this neighbourhood till the afternoon of the 26th, reach Washington the next day, be in New York from the morning of the 30th till the evening of July 3rd, & spend the rest of my time in & around Boston, less the time needed for visiting Greensboro, Vt., as I previously wrote you.

I regret to find from a letter from Dr Archibald of Brockton that it is

improbable that a visit to his church can be arranged for me.

I went to Clifton Springs, near here, for the closing session of the Convention of the International Missionary Union, & had the pleasure of seeing, amongst many others, Dr House, Dr & Mrs Kingsbury, Mrs J. G. Bliss & Miss Bliss, and Miss Stone & Miss Akrabova. That was on Tuesday evening of this week.

What shocking news from Servia! My wonder is whether Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria, who is very unpopular, may not now be in great danger.

I find myself tired. I am all of a tremble to-day, with a pulse down to 44 (normal 48), & hardly able to write.

Yours very sincerely,

Robt. Thomson.

Rev. Robert Thomson

Rec'd JUN 23 1903

Lyons : N. Y.
22nd June, 1903.

My dear Dr Barton,

I have to thank you for your letter of the 19th inst. with its enclosure.

The decision of the Prudential Committee in regard to my seeking funds for a new press does not surprise me, but does not relieve the perplexity of the situation. I am told that we might almost as well close

up our Publishing Department
as attempt to go on with our
used-up press. However, I sha
see what can be done amongs
non-Congregationalists before
reach Boston; & after that
can consult further with you
The trouble is that I am ac
quainted with so few people.

I had quite a bad time
with my head & nervous ex
haustion most of last week
but improved so much on Fri
& Saturday that I preached i
my brother-in-law's church he
yesterday morning, & then in

evening gave an address on our work with special reference to that department of it in which his son (Rev. L. F. Ostrander of Samokov) expects to be engaged. It has thrown me back a little; but now I expect to do no more public speaking till the 5th July, when I hope to be at Brockton, Mass.

My movements are:— Leave here on the 26th: be at Washington from the 27th to the 29th: be at New York (address, c/o Dr Creegan) from the 30th to the 3rd July: arrive in Boston on 4th, & go out to Brockton on same day for the 5th.

My wife has been rather se-
ously ill for about three months w
with severe bronchitis, which she fo
it difficult to throw off. One wee
I have more cheering news fro
her, the next more depressing.
last letter was again somewhat
encouraging. In it she gives m
her views as to the outfit mone
we shall need. And so I should
like to say that, if the Prudentu
Committee can approve my appli
tion, I should be glad to hav
$50= for that purpose. The maxim
allowed, you said, is $325.

With kindest regards,

Yours very sincerely

Robt. Thomson.

P.S. The papers here represent the political situation in Macedonia as one of great gravity, with considerable danger of Bulgaria becoming involved. I do not think it well to forward the machines quite yet. R. J.

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Ans'd AUG 28 1903

c/o Mrs Dickson,
689 Great Western Road, Glasgow.
13th August, 1903.

Ans'd AUG 24 1903

My dear Dr Barton,

The telegraphic shipping news will have mentioned the safe arrival of the "Saxonia" on the 6th. The voyage was phenomenal for the unbroken stillness of the sea from port to port, and was agreeable in other respects also. Yet I am sorry to have to tell you that on the very first day out I had a severe return of my head-trouble, which continued with less intensity & with occasional periods of entire relief all through the voyage. The first two days after my landing it was again very severe. Although I date this letter from our regular Glasgow address, I am at present at a seashore resort, where I joined my family the day after I reached Glasgow. My brother, who is our doctor in town, is also here for a short vacation. I have now been here five days; & thus far there is improvement. I always rise with head-trouble, more or less severe; but the open air & exercise gradually relieve it, & by the afternoon I feel all right.

I find my wife not exactly ill, although there is a weak place in the throat that she needs to watch

carefully, but with greatly reduced strength after her long illness. She recovers very slowly; and we are all inclined to think that at her time of life there may be a somewhat lengthy period of weakness. She needs to be helped & relieved as much as possible.

In my own case I am convinced that the head-trouble is due to my little campaign of addressing the churches. I greatly enjoyed the work myself, & am glad to have done it; but it appears to have been more than I was able for, & now anything in the nature of excitement seems to bring the trouble back. I have no doubt that it only needs time to bring me entire relief. Accordingly I had no intention to do other than return at once to Samokov according to the understanding we arrived at. But a letter which I have received from my nephew has made me think that it may be my duty to ask the Committee's sanction to a slight change of plan. My brother here has been anxious that I should consult a certain specialist, who, however, cannot be seen before the 1st September; while I, if I could have modified my plans in one thing, would have given anything to escape the overland journey (in the hot weather) to Samokov, & rather to go round to Constantinople by sea. And now my nephew writes that the Samokov Station is kind enough

to urge me to extend my furlough by two or three months rather than return in my present condition. He tells me, too, that you have been notified of this action. Personally there is nothing that I dislike more than not returning to work when time is up, especially when it means continued heavier burdens on my associates. Yet this spontaneous & quite unexpected action of my Station has made me feel that duty may in this case be rather in the line of unpunctuality than of punctuality.

As I unfortunately cannot receive your reply sufficiently early, I am obliged to take a decision myself, trusting that the Committee will, under the circumstances, sanction it, as it is backed up by my Station's action. I have decided to wait & see that specialist, & to help my wife during September when there is most to do in connection with the opening of the schools, &c.; then, to take the first steamer I can get from Glasgow or Liverpool to Constantinople, & so to hope to reach Samokov by the end of October. My wife, I fear, ought to remain on another year to be under medical supervision, — so my brother thinks. May I hope that this change of plan will receive the sanction of the Committee?

We all unite in cordial regards to you, & I remain

Yours very sincerely

Robt. Thomson.

P.C. Glasgow, Aug. 13, 1903

ANS'D NOV 20 1903

Constantinople.
19th October, 1903.

My dear Dr Barton,

Coming by steamer all the way round from Liverpool, I landed here on Saturday (the 17th). The voyage was an ideal one, & I had nearly eighteen days on the sea. I am happy to be able to tell you that the treatment with electricity by the specialist in Glasgow did me great good, which this long restful & delightful voyage seems to have confirmed. I feel now very strong & well. I find a good deal to attend to here that will detain me more than a week, & I have been asked to spend a day at Philippopolis on the way up, to consult about the "Zornitza"; but I hope to reach Samokov by the end of next week, & to resume my old work on Monday the 2nd November.

I have seen Mr Peet to-day, & consulted with him about the political situation. He agreed with the conclusion that I had reached, that there now seems reason to hope that hostilities will not at present break out between Turkey & Bul-

P.C. Glasgow Aug. 13/1908

garia, and that therefore I may with safety order our new printing-press + paper-cutting machine to be forwarded to Samokov. May I therefore ask you to be kind enough to request Mr Hosmer to instruct the firms from which we purchased these machines to pack + forward them (together) at once. They are to come by Cunard ships to Constantinople, care of Mr Peet, but addressed to me at Samokov, Bulgaria. I have been glad to hear from Mr Baird that he has been able to hire a Protestant foreman printer, with ten years' experience, to take charge of our work.

My news from Glasgow is still unsatisfactory in regard to my wife's health; but all the children are well.

I am happy to be on the field again, and trust that with God's blessing there may be much during our work in the coming years to encourage the hearts of all of us.

With cordial regards to Mrs Barton & yourself + to all in the Missionary Rooms, I am

Yours very sincerely,

Robt. Thomson.

Constantinople, Oct. 17, 1903

Rec'd NOV 18 1903 260
Ans'd NOV 20 1903

Samokov, Bulgaria.
6th November, 1903.

My dear Dr Barton,

I found myself once more safely in Samokov on the evening of Friday the 30th October, after having spent a day in Philippopolis to consult with the friends there about some matters. My stay in Constantinople was delightful, the journey up agreeable, & my reception everywhere touchingly cordial. I am happy to be able to say that I feel very well. I have not had a minute's trouble since I started from Glasgow. I am persuaded that the treatment with electricity was just what I needed; and the restful & refreshing times I have had since have completed the cure. I am trying to take better care of myself, & hope with God's blessing to be fit for a long spell of work.

I found awaiting me your letter of the 9th October. Thank-you very much for your kind words of greeting. I have now got things well in hand in my department, & shall begin at once to prepare the paper on our C. & I. I. which you desire.

May I ask your attention to two items of business. First. The "Zornitza" will finish this year with a debt, & will not have any fund to draw upon during 1904 as it has had during 1902 & 3. We are accordingly straining every nerve & trying every means to provide for its support next year. Under these circumstances I am authorized by the Philippopolis & Samokov Stations to request the permission of the Prudential Committee to devote to the aid of the "Zornitza" whatever portion of my salary is to be paid by the American Bible Society for the work that I have been appointed to do for it from now onwards for two or three years probably. The request is made with urgency: we think it not unreasonable: & we hope it may be granted.

RECEIVED NOV 25 1903

Samokov Nov. 6/1903

Second. I am sorry & ashamed, but, in the midst of all my travelling, I have managed to lose one letter, & that just the one I ought not to have lost. It is the one from the firm from which I bought our "new" printing-press, in which they gave me the outside measurements of the press, so that we may know what size of a foundation to build for it. As I wrote to you from Constantinople ordering the two machines to be forwarded, we must begin to prepare for them as soon as possible. So will you please ask Mr Hosmer to get the measurements a second time, & send them to me by the earliest possible post.

Believe me, with cordial regards,

Yours very sincerely, Robt. Thomson.

Rec'd DEC 14 1903 261

Ans'd DEC 15 1903

Samokov, Bulgaria.
28th November, 1903.

My dear Dr Barton,

It has taken me longer to prepare this article on our Collegiate & Theological Institute than I expected. The interruptions of necessary work have been very numerous, the more so that I was just resuming my duties. But I hope it has not kept you waiting; and I trust you will find it suitable. I read the article to my colleagues; and with one or two slight alterations, which have been made, they approved it.

In the way of illustrative photographs I am sending you to-day only one — that of the building of our Industrial Department (showing almost exclusively the Printing portion). For the rest you could not wish anything fuller or better than the set of five pictures which were sent you last spring. They had newly arrived (or at least, not long before) when I reached Boston on ~~April~~ May 1st. Mr Baird tells me that along with the pictures he sent you a full written description of them.

I rather think that when I wrote you last I did not tell you exactly what my work is to be this year

(1903-4). I resume the Directorship of the Institute, but have no teaching. But I shall have time to visit the classes more. This I mean to do regularly; for I find that it is not only good for the students, but for some of the teachers also. Then, I am to work for the American Bible Society, preparing for printing a slightly revised text of the Bible. This will take from one-third to one-half of my time. Finally, I am to take my turn in preaching, & of course, my share in common Station work. As a set-off against the Bible-work, Mr Baird is for this year relieving me of the work of the Publication Department, though I do not demit the position of Superintendent of that Department, which is a Mission, not Station, appointment. This amount of work will, I hope, be within my powers. The editorial work is specially to my taste.

Now, my dear Dr Barton, I know it will add to your cares, yet I must unburden my heart to you about that poor dear "Zornitza" of ours. It seems to me that a special effort will need to be made on its behalf. We are doing all that we can for it here, and we wish the help of the Prudential Committee. It will close the year with a debt of some 30 or 35 Liras, and will not have for next year & onwards the aid of the now exhausted fund which came to it from Salonica — I think from Miss Stone.

Neither ought it to have the large slice of our regular Publication Department's appropriation that it has been getting, because with what is left we cannot make that Department be what it ought to be since its transference here from Constantinople — a means of self-help to the boys.

Unfortunately, the paper has fewer friends amongst us than it ought to have. Our Monastir & Salonica brethren are half-hearted or indifferent about it since it cannot now be received by them. And even here in Bulgaria some are lukewarm. At our next Annual Meeting Dr Haskell will urge that, if funds are not forthcoming, the paper be again stopped at the end of 1904. I suppose we shall have to acquiesce in that if funds are not forthcoming; but I propose to make every effort to find funds before that time.

I have said that we here are doing all that we can. Let me tell you that, out of funds given us for the mission's work in Scotland, I gave 11 Liras to the "Zornitza" this month; while (in confidence I tell you) my wife & I will give at least as much more from ourselves at the New Year. We are also working for the paper in other ways; and Mr Marsh, who is as strong a supporter of & believer in the paper as our native brethren are, is also determined to leave no stone unturned to keep it up.

Aside from fleecing our Publication Department, & through it our students, we could see only three things to be tried: — to put our hands in our own pockets, to ask the aid of Miss Stone, and to put to the credit of the paper that portion of my salary which the American Bible Society will pay (a proposition which we believe the Prudential Committee will surely approve). Well, our pockets are pretty empty, so numerous are the appeals to them, especially with all these refugees about us. Then, I am <u>told</u>, (I don't know if it's true,) that Miss Stone is wearying of appeals for aid to the paper. She says the native friends must take more to do with its support. Well, we urge that constantly; but when we do our best, & still are in need, then — what? Dr Haskell estimates that the paper would need an annual subsidy of from 200 to 225 Liras. That is much less than it needed in Constantinople. It is much less, even proportionately, than the "Aveda-per" needs. Could not the Prudential Committee do for us this one thing, which is so essential to our mission's prosperity, — add to our appropriations, for the "Zornitza," 150 Liras ($660), which with the amount from my salary would secure the paper for the next three or four years? Do please try to find us this sum. The disgrace of again stopping the paper would be bad enough; but much worse would be the loss of its most excellent work.

Ever yours most sincerely,

Robt. Thomson.

Samokov, Nov. 28, 1903

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Rec'd DEC 24 1903

Ans'd DEC 30 1903

Samokov, Bulgaria.
10th December, 1903.

My dear Dr Barton,

Your letter of the 25th November has just reached me, and I hasten to reply.

In the letter in which I made the proposition that we should be allowed to retain whatever portion of my salary is paid by the American Bible Society, I did not ask that we might be allowed to keep the money for "general purposes", but requested definitely that we might apply it to the mission-newspaper the "Zornitza".

I will repeat what I said, that that paper is unfortunately in financial difficulties. It will close this year with a debt; and next year it will not have at its disposal the fund from Miss Stone on which it has drawn for the last two years. That fund is now exhausted. We feel deeply that the paper ought to be continued. It is doing excellent work. Yet it cannot support itself any more than the "Avedaper" can. We have put, & still are putting, our hands deeply into our own pockets in support of the paper; but we cannot keep it up by our unaided efforts. Please read again the

urgent appeal I tried to write you on behalf of the paper in my last letter. I was very much in earnest about it, and still am. I can hardly believe that when this organ of ours is in such difficulties, and has to face stoppage if funds are not provided for it, the Prudential Committee will decline to let us devote to it a sum which would not be an extra charge on the accounts, but would be realized as an alleviation on my salary.

As to the amount that the American Bible Society is to pay, I cannot yet tell you how much it is to be. I am just in correspondence with Mr Bowen on the subject. The sum will be spread over about two years, and will certainly not exceed 60 liras Turkish a year, while it may be considerably less.

Believe me,

Yours very sincerely

Robt. Thomson.

Samos Recd. Dec. 10, 1863

Rec'd JAN 29 1904

Ans'd FEB 3 1904

Ans'd FEB 3 1904

Samokov, Bulgaria.
15th January, 1904.

My dear Dr Barton,

Many thanks for your kind letter of the 31st December, received yesterday. I regret that my previous letter gave you the impression that I interpreted your further enquiry into that request of mine in a hostile sense. I had no such thought, but simply availed myself of the further opportunity given me to press the matter. I felt very anxious for the success of the petition, and still feel so. Couldn't you make it a regulation that every man of the Prudential Committee who votes against granting the request must pay $100 to the "Zornitza" fund for 1904? I could accept that!

I was not aware that questions of salary belonged to your department. Being money matters, I supposed that they belonged to Mr Wiggin's, and have not till now been corrected. I shall remember another time. Yes, thank you, I am quite ready to leave the matter of provision for my wife & the younger children as you have arranged it; and I thank you for the generosity with which you have done so. May I just say that last year's experience showed that it was a little difficult to get on when the salary came, in arrear, only once in three months. If it could be

Samokov Jan 15 1904

arranged for once every two months it would be a convenience to Mrs Thomson. Owing to this "mis"-understanding with Mr Wiggin, I drew full salary (i.e., for self, wife, & two younger children) for November & December of 1903, here in Samokov; so now I should be thankful if, reckoning at the rate you mention, $154.15c. could be sent her on the 29th February, 30th April, & 30th June. And I wonder if I might again ask you a question which I have twice asked Mr Wiggin without getting a response. Am I expected to apply for these payments to my wife, as also for the payments on the grant for my two oldest girls, when they fall due? or will they be sent without my asking for them?

I am happy to be able to report to you that the Institute is doing very well this year. In spite of the disturbed state of affairs in September our numbers kept up well; and we have at present 65 students in actual regular attendance. The influence of the spiritual blessing of the last two years is still felt. Quite a number of the students in the middle & upper classes, and a few in the lower, are earnest Christians, and do not hide their light. The behaviour & the general tone of the students is good, and the work done in the classes is up to the average. About six weeks ago some of our ladies started a sort of Sunday Afternoon Club for the younger boys who, not being attracted by the meetings of the Y. M. C. A., seemed to have some hours on hand that they didnt know what to do with, & so were apt to misuse them. In the Club they read & sing; and besides this they determined to give an entertainment in this vacation, — a matter

which gave them lots of useful occupation in spare hours through the week. The entertainment came off very successfully last Saturday evening. The place was packed with the 450 people who came to see & hear; & everyone was delighted. The boys are so encouraged that they propose to give another entertainment at Easter. This will serve to maintain their interest in the Club; and so I hope its good influence on them will grow.

I was in Sofia last Sunday occupying the pulpit in the absence of Mr Popoff. I was glad to see that the audiences keep good. There were about 350 at the forenoon service, and 300 at the evening. At the same time, the church is beginning to feel very seriously the want of the pastor (as distinguished from the preacher). The Church Council had a talk with me and told me just what they felt; and at their request I have laid the matter before this Station, & we have done what was in our power to do to meet their need. I trust it may be a lesson to them. They consented readily to let their pastor go, because, being much behind financially, they thought that would be a good way to get out of debt. Perhaps they will now see that it is cheaper & better to pay up than to ease themselves of their burdens at the cost of pastoral work.

You will be glad and interested to hear that Mr Vatralsky (who at one time threatened to be a cause of trouble among us) seems to have found his niche, and is doing a good, perhaps even great, work in Sofia. He might perhaps be called a free lance, though he identifies himself absolutely & heartily with our church & its work in the capital. He supports himself. He has discovered that his power is as

For Purpose

a lecturer; and he regularly delivers a lecture on the first Sunday evening of each month in the church. The place is always crammed when he speaks. At first people didnt like his plain directness of speech; but now they approve it. At first no Sofia paper would report his meetings; now they report them fully & sympathetically. And Mr Vatralsky has many indications that he is doing good. The fact is, he is a power in Sofia at present; and his lectures are one of the great features of life in the capital just now. His meetings are not evangelistic ones, & his addresses are not sermons; but he pleads powerfully & telling ly for all for which Christianity pleads. He told me that, amidst other things that occupy his time, he gives himself mainly to preparing these monthly lectures. And just at present, in the absence of the pastor, he does quite a lot of the church work — leading meetings, &c. For long he has been Superintendent of the Sunday School. All this it is a great pleasure to me to tell you.

Sarnokoos, Jany 15-1904.

My nephew, Mr Ostrander, preached here last Sunday; & every one is warm in praise both of the matter of the sermon, which they describe as thoughtful & spiritual, and of his hold & use of the language. I certainly think that both he & his wife have got on very well.

We are all busy helping as we can the Macedonian refugees. Much good has been done; & many happy hearts are very grateful. The most of the present distress is relieved. We pray that the mild winter may last.

With very cordial regards, I am yours most truly,

Robert Thomson.

Rec'd FEB 1 1904

Ans'd FEB 3 1904

Samokov, Bulgaria.
18th January, 1904.

My dear Dr Barton,

My promptness in answering your last letter makes it necessary that I should write you again to-day, to prevent if possible a continuance of doubt & misunderstanding.

I wrote you two days ago accepting, as you suggested, the arrangement you had made that you would send to Scotland for my wife & the two younger children support at the rate of $925 a year. But this morning I have your letter of the 4th inst., & that of Mr Wiggin of the same date, which tell me that, instead of the above, a supplementary salary allowance will be made me here for my wife & these children, out of which I shall myself make remittances to Scotland. All right, that is entirely satisfactory; and I hope that this notification that this arrangement is accepted will now be final. It will save the Board at the rate of £7.60 a year! May I ask you, please, to beg Mr Wiggin to accept this as a reply to his letter as well as to your own. I thank him for the kindness with which he writes, & for the heartily echoed wishes he expresses in regard to the field of our Mission. I note also his undertaking to send the remaining $250 to my brother for my two eldest girls, without my needing to apply for it.

I regret to say that I do <u>not</u> get good word from my wife. I wish she were here; but the simple fact is that for the last nine or ten months she has never had the strength necessary to

make this journey. Her illnesses are not exactly serious, but they just follow one after another, and indicate that she is much run down & in an unsatisfactory general state of health. Of course we are doing for her all that can be done; and I have hopes that the summer may see her much better. But meanwhile she is far from well. Our oldest daughter also is not very strong, and as she is at the same time the one on whom her mother mostly depends for help, she has had rather a broken time at school thus far this session. The others are very well.

I thank you for the copy of the letter from the Department of State which you sent me, dealing with the expression of views in regard to the Turkish Government by missionaries of the Board. It is a difficult matter. Of course, all extremeness of position and violence of expression are undesirable for more reasons than one; and equally of course we missionaries are here for religious, not for political, work. Yet I think when it comes to be a case, as it is here, of trying to save hundreds of thousands from all kinds of horrors under a brutal government, it is recognized that we have a right to speak. It is the missionaries in the Congo Free State who have been exposing the frightful cruelties & abuses there; and if we had & were to hold our peace in this case we should have the world of mission-haters calling down scorn upon us because we cared only to carry on a propaganda, but cared nothing for human suffering. I know that Mr Peet & others do not consider Miss Stone "narrow." They sympathize with her views, but feel that the free expression of them puts the other Turkish Missions in a bad position, — which is true. It is a case of balancing between two opposing expediencies; and much wisdom is needed to follow the medium course. I shall show the letter to my colleagues; and I am sure we shall all try not to do anything that would needlessly render the situation more difficult.

With cordial regards, Yours very sincerely, Robt. Thomson.

Samokov, Bulgaria
Jany 18, '04

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Rec'd FEB 5 1904

Samokov, Bulgaria.
21st January, 1904.

My dear Dr Barton,

Ever so many thanks for the welcome news contained in your letter of the 6th inst., received this morning, & for the very kind way in which you communicate it. Please thank the Prudential Committee for the permission. It will be a great help to the "Zornitza." You don't need now to threaten them with the $100 fine each!

And then, besides the permission, there is this gift of 25 liras for the paper from the unknown friend. How thankful we are! The burden is largely lifted from our hearts, at least for the present. Yet I think the fact that these gifts are needed is a strong backing to the appeal that I made, & which I repeat, that a permanent addition of $660 be made to our Appropriations, for the paper. I do trust it may be done before another year comes.

We began the 2nd Term's work in the Institute to-day. There will, I think, be a falling off in the attendance. The weather is very wintry; and just opposite my windows Mr & Mrs Ostrander & others are busy at relief work among the refugees. The word from Mr M. N. Popoff of Sofia is a surprise, & may call for action on our part.

Yours very gratefully & cordially,

Robt. Thomson.

Samokov, Jany 21, 1904

Mrs Thomson for a long time I would hope that the worst is over now. I have no doubt whatever that she would be better here than where she is; but the trouble is that since while of last year she has never had the strength necessary for the journey. With cordial regards, Yours very sincerely, Robt. Thomson.

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REC'D MAR 2 1904

Samokov, Bulgaria.
20th February, 1904.

ANS'D JUN 10 1904

My dear Dr Barton,

I have to acknowledge with thanks your letter of the 4th inst. I subscribe entirely to your views as to what is to be expected of missionaries in regard to such political questions in their fields of labour as is this Macedonian one in ours. I trust we shall all be guided by these views. If you will allow me, I may mention to you that one of the words of praise that was passed upon my politico-philanthropo-missionary addresses in Scotland was the "self-restraint" that I exhibited throughout.

The further $500 that comes for our Publication Work through Miss Stone fills us all with great thankfulness. I have just written Miss Stone a special note of thanks. This quite secures our Publication Work & the "Zornitza" for the present year. I have told Miss Stone, & may repeat to you, that unfortunately there can be no doubt that at present the country, including our Protestant communities, is not responding to us as it has done. I believe this is only temporary: the long continued political crisis & financial depression contribute largely to it; yet it is trying while it lasts. The churches feel it, so do our schools, so do all branches of

our work. An apathy is noticeable, which even seems to dull the moral sense, & that in quarters where it would be least expected. But at the same time all this constitutes just so much the louder call to persist in bringing the gospel of Christ to bear on conditions so discouraging. We shall do so; & in God's good time we shall see the blessing.

Our Institute here has just come through a rather trying week. Two-thirds of our 6th Class (the highest) & the whole of the 5th wished to leave, as a protest against our having selected a teacher, not approved by them, to teach a certain subject to them. The fact that our entire faculty (13 persons), reinforced by two outside Trustees who were then visiting us, reconsidered the matter & unanimously approved our selection made no difference to them. However, I am thankful to be able to report that the reasoning of friends privately with them, together with mild though firm handling of the matter, finally brought them round; and they are all staying. We are praying that this experience may yet be used as a means of blessing.

I have been happy to learn that the carefully edited reports on the Relief-Work & the general situation which I regularly send to London & Glasgow are published, & help to arouse & sustain that interest & sympathy which have brought to the field such large gifts from Britain.

My last letter contained the best news I have had about

Danville, Feb. 20, 1901

REC'D MAY 7 1904

Samokov, Bulgaria.
18th April, 1904.

ANS'D JUN 10 1904

My dear Dr Barton,

I suppose you will expect me to write you in regard to those proceedings of Annual Meeting which more immediately concern the work that I have had charge of hitherto, & that which I expect to be engaged in after this session is over. I shall do so as briefly as possible. I am deeply interested in all the work of the Mission; but I presume that, except in special circumstances, each of us ought to confine his correspondence to his own department.

I feel, however, that I may say a word or two on the Supply of the Field, a general subject in which we are all deeply interested. I know that you are on the look out for a lady for the Girls' School here; but the need is becoming urgent. Miss Maltbie is in need of rest, and, though holding out wonderfully, cannot, I think, be relied on for very long. Miss Baird is not strong. And, of course, whoever comes would need to be some time in training. It will be hard to fill Miss Maltbie's place. She is a marvel of efficiency and of spiritual earnestness. Her work can never be measured. — As for the call for two new married missionaries, it is simply a necessity. We are losing Mr & Mrs Bond. Dr Clarke is admittedly not fit for very much now. Dr & Mrs Haskell will probably retire within a year or two on account of Mrs Haskell's health. And, as I shall explain later on, we shall about the same time have to give half

Samokov, Feb. 20, 1904

the time, probably, of two missionaries of this Station to Bible Revision. So our ranks are thinning. Do not, I pray you, think that we have too many or enough missionaries. Especially do not misunderstand the situation in this Station. The Publication Work done here is for the whole Mission; so is the work of the Mission Secretary; & so is all the work done in the Schools. As the letter to the Rooms shows, we have had the equivalent of the full time of 1½ missionaries in the C. & T. Institute. There is no waste of working force. We are all busy, & unable to overtake much that we should like to do. We need reinforcements; & the new men must be some time in training.

The C. & T. Institute. I am very thankful for the two resolutions passed by the Mission in regard to the C. & T. I. That which adds a seventh year to the Collegiate course is the more important of the two. The Teachers' Report will give you the reasons in full. For myself I shall only add that the need of meeting the requirements of the National Gymnasia, although an important element in the question, is less important than the need of satisfying our own consciences that we are doing the thorough work that is expected of us. I trust that means may be found to enable us to make this advance. — The permission to hire a Matron (if Drs House & Knigsbury consent) will be a great blessing to the boys, especially the younger ones. My heart is often sore for them, away from their mothers & sisters, with no one to care specially for their clothing, cleanliness, comfort, &c. This will be a real boon, if granted.

The Directorship. You know that Mr Ostrander was invited to the Mission with a special view to his engaging in educational work, and, if it seemed best, of taking the Directorship of the C. & J. I. I think we all feel that he is showing himself quite the man for the place. He has got a good hold of the language. He is a good teacher. His ideas on education & discipline are sound. He commands the respect of teachers & students. His relations with all are pleasant. We have talked freely; but I have heard no one object to the proposed putting of Mr Ostrander into the Directorship at the close of this session. Accordingly, if nothing unforeseen prevents, I propose to retire at Commencement; & my hope is that thereafter I may be allowed once more to devote myself exclusively to literary work, of which there is plenty.

"Zornitza." In spite of my long connection with our Mission Paper, my deep interest in it, & my sincere desire to see it continue, I felt that I could not be a party to its continuing in its present dying condition. Our friends do not support it & work for it as they should. There are jealousies, too. Pressure had to be brought to bear on our people to exert themselves for the paper; and on the other hand we had the right to demand that we should not be called upon year after year to make good from our pockets or by begging continually increasing deficits, or to hamper our Publication Work by encroaching more on its funds. I think we were right in deciding as we did. We told our friends that we cannot pledge them for 1905 more than 110

liras. Of this, 80 liras come from our Publication Work funds, & leave that badly crippled with a bare 100 liras to work with. The other 30 will be earned by me in the Bible work I am now doing. So we asked them if, with only that pledged from us, they would guarantee the paper for 1905. If not, we hold ourselves free either to make the experiment of publishing the paper here on our own press next year, or, if that seem inadvisable, to stop the paper altogether. Of course, if donations towards the support of the paper for 1905 should reach us by the end of October of this year in sufficient sums to ensure its continuance to the end of the year, we should continue it even without the guarantee of our Bulgarian friends; but such donations can hardly be counted upon. Miss Stone distinctly says that another year, when political conditions are not what they are now, she would be unwilling to aid the paper as she is doing this year.

Bible Revision. After consultation with the Agent of the American Bible Society, I have during the last three months been collecting the views of competent Bulgarians as to the need of a linguistic revision of the Bible. The vote which the Meeting passed after hearing these views & the discussion that followed is an indication that they realize that we must begin to prepare for this work. I think, if we are all spared & well, that plans will be presented to our next Annual Meeting for beginning the Revision. I have little doubt that the Bible Societies will lend

their help. The British & Foreign was ready long ago; and I know that Mr Bowen of the American only waits the endorsement of the Mission. I cannot foresee just what plan will be approved; but my suggestion will be that Mr Baird & myself and two competent Bulgarians should undertake the work. As it will not be a revision of the translation, but only of the language, I should think that three of these might give only half their time to it, giving their other half to other work — probably teaching, as I think the committee ought to work here in Samokov. The fourth (one of the missionaries) would need to give 2/3-ds or 3/4-ths of his time to it, as chairman + responsible editor. If the Bible Societies were ready to pay these proportions of our salaries, there would be no difficulty; but that remains to be seen. The work would probably take four or five years; and after that it would need a couple of years to print it. I shall hope to let you know from time to time what the outcome of our interchange of views is.

Deputation asked for. I am very glad to think that we are to propose to our friends of the Austrian and Spanish Missions to send a joint + urgent appeal to the Prudential Committee for a deputation to visit us. I know you already have the project in mind; but when you hear how much we wish you, it will perhaps stimulate action. I am sure that great good — in many ways —

would result from such a visit. And if the visit could be arranged to synchronize with the religious conference which we are to try to arrange with neighbouring missions (or the time of the conference made to synchronize with your visit), it would be specially helpful. Spiritual quickening we feel to be as necessary for us as right judgment and active energy and competent preparation. I do trust that this hope of ours may be realized.

Friendly Visits. A pleasant incident that occurred during the time of the Meeting was the paying of an Easter Monday call on me (the C. & T. I. Director is regarded by the people as the head of the Mission) by the Colonel of the forces here, accompanied by the Civil Governor. This has never happened before. The visit was very cordial. I returned it next day, taking with me the seven other gentlemen to both the places; whereupon the Colonel & his wife came a second time to call on the seven & their families. In our church services, officers, teachers, & many outsiders are now often seen. The local Gymnastic Club numbers several of our lads as members, & one of them is its captain. Yes, things are moving even here.

My last word from Scotland is rather better. But my wife's health seems still very uncertain. The children are all well.

Ever yours most sincerely,

Robt. Thomson.

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Rec'd JUL 23 1904

Samokov, Bulgaria.
6th July, 1904.

Ans'd JUL 28 1904

My dear Dr Barton,

I write under great pressure of work, yet feel that I ought not to delay to send you a few lines in regard to one or two matters.

Your letter of the 13th June reached me a few days ago. We are all glad to know that you yourself desire to visit our Mission some time, and we shall hope that you may be able to arrange for it next year.

Closing Exercises of our Collegiate & Theological Institute. These came off last Thursday. Intellectually & spiritually the graduating class was the poorest we have had for a long time. Of the 7 original members, one went to America on Macedonian business, one dropped out through illness, & one was suspended for a year: four graduated — two of them by the skin of their teeth. All I can say is that we cannot expect a constant high level. There must be the trough of the wave. It is not nice when it comes; but there it is. We can only hope for & expect & work for the next crest.

Spiritually, things had begun to improve towards the very close of the session, but too late for

much in the way of results, except the removing of some misunderstandings & difficulties from the minds of certain of the students, which will, I hope, enable us to begin more hopefully with them at the very start of the new session.

The Directorship. The Trustees accepted my resignation of the Directorship, & appointed Mr Ostrander instead; and I announced the change at the last morning prayers of the Session. I am sure the new man will do well. As for myself, I am delighted to find myself once more able to give my whole time & strength to the Literary Work, especially as we are now seriously looking forward to a linguistic revision of the Bulgarian Bible.

The "Zornitza." I note what you say in reference to the printing & publishing of the paper. What you suggest is possible; but here we need to be very careful to do nothing that might be seized upon as a specimen of duplicity or trickery, as I am very much afraid that might be the interpretation put upon the suggested plan. We are still discussing the matter; but I think we are all now agreed that, if special funds to carry on the paper at Philippopolis next year do not reach us by the end of October, we shall transfer the paper entirely here. What we

are now anxious about is the above "if." It is now less than four months to the time indicated. We are doing what we can to secure the necessary aid. It remains to be seen whether we shall receive enough to make the change unnecessary.

Mrs Thomson. I very much regret to say that news of my wife is no better, but rather worse. You will pardon me if I mention to you (as it seems to me you have a right to some explanation) that the cause of her long-prolonged illness is "the change of life." This affects some women much more severely than others; and unfortunately my poor wife seems to be one of those who suffer most. There is not believed to be anything dangerous; but there is frequent suffering, constant prostration, & much nervous trouble. My wife's last two notes have communicated to me the decision, taken after medical consultation & much prayerful consideration, to remain on in Scotland another year, as she feels utterly unfit for planning or for travelling. I much regret this in every way; but the case seems to me to demand it. I can but acquiesce; and I do not doubt that you will see that there is nothing else to be done. If so, I would suggest that the present financial arrangements be continued.

Believe me, Yours most sincerely

Robt. Thomson.

Pannotrest, July 6, 1904

Rec'd AUG 18 1904
Ans'd AUG 31 1904

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500
210
110
900
40

Samokov, Bulgaria.
3rd August, 1904.

My dear Dr Barton,

I wrote you lately explaining the condition of my wife's health, & telling you that unfortunately the decision had to be taken that she must remain in Scotland another year. I am sorry to say that the word which comes from week to week continues to show that she is quite unfit for anything at present, & confirms the unavoidableness of the decision taken.

In these circumstances I am obliged to ask for a rearrangement of our money-matters. ~~We did not~~ I understand from a late letter of yours that correspondence on such matters should be addressed to you, & not to Mr Wiggin; so I trust I am correct in writing this to you.

We did not ask for the education grant for our two younger children last year; but now that they are entering higher & more expensive classes, we feel the need of it for the year 1904-5. I have therefore to ask that, if in accordance with the rules of the Board, we may receive the grant this year (1904-5) for four children instead of two, viz., for Nettie,

Samokov, Aug 6, 1904

now 18; for Katie, 17; for Ina, 14; and for Duncan, 9. If this is granted, I shall relinquish the children's percentage added to my salary here, & shall draw only at the rate of 200 liras, for my wife & myself.

As the school year begins in Glasgow on the 1st September, I would suggest that I begin to draw at the rate of 200 liras here at that date, & continue to do so for a calander year.

If the above is all correct & meets your approval, may I ask that you will request Mr Wiggin to send the first half of the year's grant (4 × $125) so as to reach my wife as early in September as possible. It is to be sent, as last year, to my brother:—

Dr Thomson,
8 Hamilton Place Terrace,
Kelvinside, Glasgow,
Scotland.

I should be glad of a line from you telling me that you approve all the above points, or, if not, saying in what respect you desire to modify them. In any case, please let my wife receive early in September whatever money is to be sent her.

Yours most sincerely, Robt. Thomson.

Sunderd, Bulgaria
Aug 3, 1904

Rec'd SEP -8 1904

Adrianople. Aug. 2. 1904.

Dear Pro. Thomson.

Yours of July 18th came to hand - but very late. The post comes but once a week from Kirkkilisse to Malko Tirnovo. Yet I tried to answer it before we went to Const., but we have been so overwhelmed. We stay here today that we may write up letters before going on tomorrow - into the rush of work that awaits us. I hope to push things and get them in such shape - that after some 15 days we may spend a few days in Philippopolis.

I have not changed my opinions or rather my convictions have not changed - in regard to any Mission paper. It has not been all the success I hoped it would be. Nor have other branches of our

Mission work. The times and conditions are against us in many ways. But I lament exceedingly — and this I wish to say to all my missionary associates at Samatar and at other stations — a disposition in any portion, larger or smaller, of our Mission, to underestimate — as I view the work, the importance of our Mission paper. If we are to have a future, and an increasing influence for good in the future in this land, I believe it will come by no means more surely than through such an organ. I know that I am going along in years, but there are a good many younger men in the

Mission, and if I were among them I know I would use every power to have such an organ in the mission, and that I would do my best to make it an influence and a power.

I believe the Committee should continue to exist, and to exist where it now is, and that its existence should be insured first in the resolute will of all the members of the Mission - and then I know that means will be found. If it is removed to Samakov I believe its non-existence after a very short time is insured. So believe most of the Bulgarian brethren - on whom its success or failure most depends. I believe that

means can be found for the paper to continue when it is the next year. If it continues in Philippopolis I am responsible for finding 40 liras - if needed - for its support in 1905.

I do not consider the Western Turkey Mission any wiser in some respects than ours. But we shall do well to consider what estimate they place upon Mission papers. even compared with any and all other branches of Mission work.

Most sincerely and cordially yours.

With kind regards from us both to all of you.

Geo. D. Marsh.

Rec'd SEP -8 1904

Ans'd OCT 6 1904

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Samokov, Bulgaria.
23rd August, 1904.

My dear Dr Barton,

There are three things that I must write to you about to-day. But first let me acknowledge with thanks your kind letter of 28th july. I did receive the pamphlets on the Board's Higher Educational Institutions. It is a fine pamphlet: I pray that it may bring in the needed funds, & stir to more prayer on behalf of these institutions. In response to your kind offer, I should like the following copies to be sent of the reprint of our C. & T. Institute:— 22 copies to your brother at Greensboro, asking him to forward one to each of the Congregational Churches in Orleans Co., Vt.: 1 copy to Prof. F. E. Woodruff, Brunswick, Me.: 1 copy to Rev. Jas. Brodie, D.D., Salem, Mass.: 1 copy to Rev. Dr Archibald, Brockton, Mass.: and 1 copy to Rev. Dr Ostrander, Lyons: Wayne Co., N.Y.

The first of my subjects is our old friend the "Zornitza", which causes me much anxiety. Please read carefully the letter that I enclose from Dr Marsh. It was his reply to one I wrote asking his views as to where the paper should be published next year. I answered him that I agreed with every word he wrote, as well as with the whole tone & spirit of his letter, but that none of the views he expressed could alter the hard

financial facts of the situation. His pledge of 40 liras for 1905, however, did alter the situation. To secure the paper we need 200 liras. Of this

Our Publication Department furnishes	80
My Bible Work furnishes (estimated)	30
The Bulgarian Evangelical Society gives	22
Dr Marsh is responsible for	40
I personally give	5
Total thus far secured,	177

And as we are thus within 23 liras of the sum needed, I feel that we can risk it. The paper will continue at Philippopolis during 1905. We must do our best to raise this 23 liras. And that reminds me to ask whether the unnamed friend who through you promised, I think, $200 for the "Zornitza" for 1904 has yet forwarded the money. It will be needed before the end of the year.

But now, I have one or two things to say. In the first place, Dr Marsh's remark that where there is the determination the means will be found is so far justified by the way that various members of our Mission have been able to secure outside funds for schemes that they were personally specially interested in. But it is not so always. It may be unfortunate for the "Zornitza" that I have had, & perhaps still have, so much to do with it; but I am not in a position to raise funds for it. Not being an American, I am not acquainted with people in the United States from whom

to ask. In Scotland I have received from a few personal friends various modest sums for this & other branches of the work; but I do not feel that I can ask from the churches there, which have enough to do to support their own missions, anything for this work.

But, in the second place, I feel that our Mission paper ought not to be on the precarious basis of friendly gifts that have to be begged for afresh every year, & may fail us at any time. Neither ought it to take from our Publication Department the large proportion of 80 liras out of 200 (less the pro rata diminution) which it at present takes. And let me once more remind you that in Constantinople the Publication Department had 400+ liras, and that, to save the C. & J. J. from death, it relinquished 200+ in its favour, & transferred itself here in order that the remaining 200, by supporting the Industrial Department here, might also indirectly help the C. & J. J. We have thus sacrificed all for the C. & J. J.; and I feel that the paper ought to be on a secure & permanent basis.

And, in the third place, although I am often discouraged by the apparent indifference of many Protestants to the "Zormitzu", & by the niggardly ways of the people, yet even so, our showing in proportion of self-support to aid received is much better than that of the "Avedaper". And besides we have to compete with a free press here, numerous papers — some of them dailies, and unscrupulous methods resorted to for circulating them.

In view of all this I must make a strong appeal again for the paper. Is it quite impossible to give us the extra 200 liras ($880) on Appropriations that we need for it? Can nothing be done to help us? Of the figures I gave on p. 2, the items 22 and 40 liras were given conditionally on the paper remaining at Philippopolis. If removed here, we should get only 11 instead of 62, giving us the insufficient total of 126 liras for the paper, besides lessening its prestige. I plead very hard for the addition of $880 to our Appropriations.

My <u>second</u> subject I can dismiss briefly. We have been saddened & troubled lately by evidences + by direct admissions of strained feelings towards us on the part of our native workers, which evidently mostly arise from financial considerations. There is an admission that they also need a quickened + deepened spiritual life; and at this moment they (our pastors in the Samokov & Philippopolis fields) are holding the closing meetings of a Conference for seeking the Spirit's presence + power, held at a summer resort not far from here. We hear good reports of the Conference, & I believe that God will use it for helping us out into the light; but I think a business conference is also needed. I was lately moved to express the strong conviction that we (all missionaries in these two Stations) ought to plan to meet next spring with the entire body of our native pastors, + with them work on the Estimates. I need

not enter into the details of the plan as it lies in my mind. The suggestion is only a development of the instructions long ago received from the Rooms to draw up our Estimates in consultation with the native workers. My suggestion has been cautiously approved by my colleagues, & most heartily by the one or two Bulgarians to whom I have mentioned it. Indeed the latter jumped at it with eagerness.

Now, what I wish to say is that the only time when our native brethren, in their poverty, can all be together is just before, or just after, the Annual Meeting of the Bulgarian Evangelical Society, which always takes place in Easter Week, Old Style. If you have any thought of visiting us next year, I think it would be most desirable that you should be present at the Conference (if agreed to), which would have to be at the time just indicated. Whether you can come or not, I mean to press for it; but if you encourage us to hope that you can come, I think that would ensure the holding of the Conference, and it would be invaluable for you, for us, & for our Bulgarian friends to discuss things all together. What can you reply?

My third subject is my co-worker here, Dr Clarke. He recently told us that he had written a letter to his sister Mrs Lane, which might eventually reach your hands, in which he complained of unjust & unkind treatment mainly by

me and Mr Ostrander (as Directors of the C. & T. I.) Unfortunately he wrote that letter, I think, before hearing the statements that we made in Station Meeting, which at least his son admitted removed most of the misunderstanding & the most unpleasant part of it, for it left at worst a well-meant but mistaken course of action in place of personal hostility and injustice & unkindness. My relations with Dr Clarke have all along been so cordial & pleasant, that I am at a loss to understand how he did not seek a more charitable explanation of my conduct than he did.

Without entering into details, I may say that it was my very shrinking from hurting his feelings that led me into a line of action that unfortunately proved the opposite of what I intended. I sincerely regret this, & have said so to Dr Clarke both publicly & privately. But while I erred as to my method of informing Dr Clarke, I feel that I am right in the view I expressed & still hold, that, because of the growing eccentricities & peculiarities of his manner (I did not use these words to him), & the increasing infirmities of advancing years, it is not desirable that he should teach in, or have anything to do with, the C. & T. I. any longer. Mr Baird & Mr Ostrander agree with me in this, & I know Dr Haskell would also; while our native brethren have more & more strongly insisted on it for years past. It never comes easily to anyone to learn this about himself. It is hard on Dr Clarke, but it is true. But I am very sorry that he has suffered over it more than any part of my intention. It was unintentional, & the opposite of my very cordial regards.

Believe me, with cordial regards, Yours most truly,

Robt. Thomson.

Rec'd SEP 12 1904

Samokov, Bulgaria.
29th August, 1904.

My dear Dr Barton,

I am to-day writing to the Trustees of the American College for Girls, Scutari, Constantinople. After some preliminary explanations, which I hardly think it necessary to copy for you, I send them a copy of a letter I have written to Miss Patrick, another copy of which I here enclose for you.

Yours very sincerely
Robt. Thomson.

Rec'd SEP 12 1904

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Samokov, Bulgaria.
27th August, 1904.

My dear Miss Patrick,

I learn from Mr Peet that you are expected in Constantinople about the 1st September; and I desire to take an early opportunity of thanking you for the Statement (dated 11th July) as to what the College stands for religiously.

In view of what has recently occurred will you allow me to tell you the impression that the Statement makes upon me? I shall be frank to say that I shrink somewhat from expressing all that is in my mind, lest I should be misjudging, or should unintentionally give pain. Yet on the whole I feel inclined to trust to your kindness, feeling sure that, whether you can agree with my views or not, you will believe that I write as a sincere friend of the College, and that if I am mistaken in anything you will believe that it is unintentionally.

Frankly, then, the Statement, taken in connection with what I have observed and learned elsewhere about the College, leaves me with the impression that it does not recognize the College as a Mission College. I have been told (whether correctly or not I cannot say) that both you and Miss Fensham have of late years objected to its being called a Mission College. Certainly the more recent English graduates of the College in Bebek hotly deny that it is such, giving one the impression that the distinction has been insisted on to them as of much importance by their teachers. I notice that in this Statement you lay stress on the College having been founded as a Christian Institution for Higher Education. I have not the documents here to consult; but I presume that must be the term that is used in setting forth the reason for establishing the College. But even if that is so, can the College cease to be a Mission College since it is supported by a Mission Board?

To me it seems that the distinction is of importance. In New York or Boston, for example, I understand the difference between a Mission Church and what may be called in contradistinction an Ordinary Church is that the latter, being with readiness attended by persons for the most part already with Christian training, habits, &c.tr., have for their work chiefly the gathering in of the harvest of Christian homes, the building up in the Christian faith, and the leading in Christian activities; while the former, the Mission Churches, ~~have~~ planted in the midst of a population indifferent, perhaps hostile, & without Christian habits, have as their work mainly the presentation of those Christian truths that are best calculated to draw people out of practical heathenism into the living Christian faith, and to begin upon them that work of Christian training which they have not enjoyed.

Making a distinction parallel to the above, the Statement seems to me one that would do admirably to set forth the standing, say, of Wellesley or Smith College, where students, in a Christian land, come from Christian homes and living churches, already with Christian train-

ing and habits and views, so that a Christian Institution for their higher education is all that is needed. (Yet even in these Colleges, I am happy to know, constant endeavour is made through personal influence and private appeal to bring about the surrender of the heart and life to Christ.) But will that meet the needs in a field such as this? I cannot believe it. The unrevived Christianity of the East supplies no basis on which to build up Christian character. Nothing can be taken for granted. The foundation-work which ought to have been done in the home and the home church and the home surroundings cannot be left undone: it has to be done later on; otherwise, any attempted superstructure has nothing on which to rest in testing times. Now I understand that in this as in other mission fields education is one of the prized means used for accomplishing this work. Some will be reached by preaching, others through publications, and others through education; but the religious work to be done is in all cases the same --to bring souls to the Redeemer. I doubt whether your Statement contemplates any such endeavour; and I fear that for some time past there has been in the College little or none of that earnest, faithful, heart to heart dealing with students that has aimed at their conversion to God.

This leads to another point. It is, speaking broadly, only the Protestant portion of Christendom, and even only the out & out evangelical amongst the Protestants, that insists on the great doctrines of sin, repentance, faith, conversion, redemption, regeneration, and the work of the Holy Spirit as the truths most effective in reaching the heart and turning it to God. I have heard it stated (again I cannot say whether correctly or not) that your desire and endeavour is to sink as largely as possible the differences between the three great branches of Christendom, and to make the College a common meeting ground for students of all churches, and indeed of all faiths, something after the manner of the Parliament of Religions. Some, putting it more bluntly, represent the College as endeavouring to make every student feel (speaking religiously) as comfortable as possible, avoiding all stirring of conscience, searching of heart, and trying of ways. That is not said in so many words in the Statement, and I would hope that it is not correct; but at least there is not in the Statement anything that a Roman Catholic or Eastern Church Christian could not subscribe to: there is nothing of the Reformation tone or of the evangelical spirit.

I believe heartily in education and in higher education; but I am profoundly convinced that, for a long time to come, educational institutions planted by the West in the East must (1) be characterized supremely by a missionary spirit, and (2) be out and out strongly Protestant and Evangelical. Not only do I believe that this is expected by those who give in support of missions; but I am certain that without this the reformation of the East is impossible. Education by itself cannot do it; nor can an education that, while Chris-

tian in general tone, is content to build on the sands that here surround us. If I may be allowed to quote from my contribution to the Board's recent pamphlet on its higher educational institutions, I believe that all through the East here the same experience will be had that we have had in Bulgaria, when I say --"One thing becomes clear from the history of Bulgaria since its emancipation, and that is that it must look to the" missionary "institute, not only for preachers of the Gospel, but for reformers along any line. It is noteworthy that, outside of the ranks of the converted men (in the oldfashioned sense of the word), no Bulgarians either from this or from any other institution take an open part in the fight against evil. Christian influences doubtless lead others to purer private and political life, to nobler aims, and to more liberal views; but it seems that nothing short of the redeemed and consecrated life stirs to open and persistent conflict with infidelity, unrighteousness, impurity, drunkenness, and other evils. Thus far, in the field of this mission, such converted men and reforming patriots are the product only of this Institute".

It pains me, dear Miss Patrick, to make a further remark; but, in the spirit in which I write and in which I believe you will read, it may be best to do it. In your Statement you say that "there is every reason, and would be even were the College a separate organization, for the most cordial sympathy and co-operation between the Faculty of the College and other Christian workers in Turkey." All will say Amen to that; but, as a matter of fact, the sympathy contemplated between the College and other Christian workers in the East, and which once existed, has been lost--I cannot say precisely to what degree or extent--because it is felt that the College is no longer maintaining a spiritual, evangelical, missionary character. I have heard members of this mission say that, if they had younger daughters to educate, they could not now send them to the College as they did their older ones, because its atmosphere would be detrimental religiously. When I was in Constantinople recently I was told by a responsible member of the Western Turkey Mission that in the interior of Asia Minor the feeling is strong that the College is quite out of touch religiously with the Missions. This is deeply deplored; and it may be that some explanation of it is to be found along the line of what I have written above.

In conclusion, will you allow me to suggest some points for consideration.

(1) Whether the educational side of the College has not been pressed, and is not still being pressed, at the expense of its religious and above all its missionary character.

(2) Whether your own enthusiasm for philosophical study and speculation, admirable in itself, has not led you into a manner of presenting religious truth to the students which is in most cases

not only quite above their comprehension, but, even if they could take it in, would have to be characterized (pray forgive my plainness of speech) as that offering of a stone for bread which has proved the fatal weakness of all purely philosophical treatment of the woes of this sinful world.

(3) Whether there has not been allowed to pervade the College increasingly for years past a spirit of worldliness that is sadly detrimental to its highest usefulness. I cordially recognize that a college situated in a great centre like Constantinople cannot be expected to maintain quite the severe simplicity of interior institutions, and that it is justified in trying to reach all classes of the population. Equally cordially do I recognize that a spirit of extreme Puritanism has its faults and dangers as well as the opposite extreme. But has there not been too much of a letting down of barriers, and anxiety to secure influential patronage? Is there not in the life of the College itself a good deal that certainly cannot help, and probably seriously hinders, earnest spirituality? I heard with pain quite recently of a play called "The Scandal" that was rendered in the College last winter, which, both in its contents and in the manner of its representation, gave great "offence" (in the New Testament sense) to some who were present, and was the cause of surprised and very unfavorable comment amongst some of the girls themselves. May there not be more need for caution along these lines, especially in the East, in a College professing to be Christian and missionary?

(4) Whether, besides the above, there may not be a good deal, almost undefinable, yet real, which helps to create in the College an atmosphere of spiritual unreality, being probably in turn both effect and cause.

My own earnest hope is that the College may be, in spirit, if not always in formal connection, a missionary College, the members of its teaching force being individually possessed of the missionary spirit, and its work and life being pervaded by the same.

Assuring you of my warm esteem for yourself personally, and of my single desire to serve the highest interests of the College as I understand them,

I am,

Yours very sincerely,

Robt. Thomson.

Transcribed Bacon
Aug 24 - 1904

Samokov, Bulgaria: 22nd October, 1904.

REC'D NOV 7 1904

My dear Dr Barton, — Many thanks for your letter of the 8th just received. I hasten to send you, however, just this word of explanation. In one important point you seem quite to have misunderstood what I said in my letter to you of the 23rd August in regard to the "Zornitza." It never was in my mind to suggest that you should collect special funds for this department of work (unless enquiring whether the anonymous promiser of help to the paper had fulfilled his promise, can be called such). I think my letter will show that what I did plead was that you would see whether you could not press to have additional $880 given us for this purpose in the appropriations. — Most sincerely yours, Robt. Thomson.

Rec'd JAN 25 1905

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Samokov, Bulgaria.
7th January, 1905.

Ans'd

My dear Dr Barton,

A very Happy New Year to you & Mrs Barton and all friends in the Rooms.

Salary & Mrs Thomson. I have to thank you for your kind letter of the 2nd December. The arrangement made about my salary & the allowance for the children is just what I desired, & I am grateful for it. Since last summer my wife's health seems to be steadily though very slowly improving; and I have now every hope that she will be able to come out in July. In that case the four younger children expect to come with her. My oldest, now two years past the aid-receiving age, has been studying dairy-farming, and may possibly come out later on in the year, as there seem some excellent openings for that industry in this fertile country.

Funds. I am grieved indeed to learn from you that nothing more can be given this coming year either to the C. & T. Institute or to the "Zornitza." The only ray of hope is your admission that "it seems absolutely essential that some advance be made." I hope that will be kept in mind if funds should be available. The "Zornitza", I hear, will close the year in debt, — not very much, it

is true, and yet enough to hamper it seriously next year, and to endanger its continuing at all in 1906. The paper is appreciated & does great good; and it would be a calamity to have it stop.

As to the C. & T. Institute, I suppose that Mr Ostrander as Director gives you full word about its situation. But as I have been selected to go to Sofia two weeks from now to try to secure the Government recognition of these schools, I may say that I have seldom known the native brethren more unanimous in urging anything upon us than this, or with better reason. If this is not done, it looks as though the very existence of these two schools would be threatened, & through them that of all the elementary ones. Yet if recognition is secured, it can only be on an enlarged programme, which means more teachers & therefore more money; while further expense would have to be incurred in the near future owing to our having to pay more for teachers that would meet the requirements of the Government standard. So it seems to me that this is simply a question of either granting us what is needed for these purposes or else of contemplating the closing up of all our teaching work out of Macedonia.

<u>Invitation to you</u>. It gave me great pleasure the other day to add my signature to the Mission's invitation to you to visit us next spring. I earnestly trust you may be able to accept it. And if, as I hope, we can arrange for the Conference with our native

brethren in connection with your visit, I think your coming will be of the highest importance, and ought to result in great good. We shall earnestly pray that the way may be opened up for you.

Spiritual Conditions. It gives me great joy to be able to tell you that we have seen things of late in Bulgaria which have been a great rebuke to our weak faith, and which seem to indicate a general preparedness for blessing such as we were not prepared for.

Our native pastors & preachers have an organization of their own which they call their "Preachers' Brotherhood." This Brotherhood at its annual gathering last August felt stirred to pray and plan for revival work amongst the churches. They sent us an earnest letter on the subject, and, needless to say, we joined with them very earnestly in the prayers, & expressed our readiness to cooperate to the furthest of our ability in any work that was agreed upon. That spirit of prayer, poured out upon them & us, has not been withdrawn: we are still being helped to continue in earnest supplication before God; and it looks as though, as is often the case with Him,

"God had stirred us up to pray for
that which He desires to bestow."

The first thing that opened our eyes and touched our hearts was when our autumn Conference (Central) met at Schtiman in October. That is a town where work has been carried on for long, but with very meagre results. But when we

gathered there, the worker (Mr G. N. Popoff) told us that very great interest had been excited in the town, & that we might be prepared for large and sympathetic audiences. We had them, right through. The little church was crowded, & the aisle & windows & door filled with a standing mass of listeners. Teachers & government officials & much of the "intelligence" of the town was there, & that on every occasion when there was an open session. The townspeople showed us the utmost friendliness, & in the most open way, some of the foremost of them ~~having~~ inviting some of us as guests in their homes, all eager to receive visits from us, and many expressing the highest appreciation of the sermons & lectures and the wish that they could have more of them. Mr Popoff, whom we examined & passed for license, has felt his hands greatly strengthened: some of the weak and wavering in the congregation have been quickened; and in new places an interest has been aroused that promises to develope well.

At that Conference, carrying out the urgent desire of the Brotherhood, plans were made, as they were also at the Eastern Conference, for holding special evangelistic meetings in the churches, to be preceded & then followed up by times of special prayer and work. One by one the churches have been holding these meetings; and lately it came to the turn of this Samokov church to hold its course. Mr Sechanoff, pastor of the Philippopolis church, was the one selected to come here for the purpose; but though he had leave at first for only one

week, the encouragement was so extraordinary that he had to be allowed a second.

Many of us have often said, & perhaps still more have felt, that Samokov is a hardened, God-forsaken town which nothing can move. And yet, when these special services were advertised, we had the Ichtiman experience over again in every detail, & on a larger scale. Night after night the church was crowded with audiences of between 400 & 500, and people were seen in the church — often at every one of the meetings — teachers, officials, prominent socialists, & others — who were just the last persons that we ever expected to see at a religious service in our church. Deep impression seems to have been made, and Samokov showed a preparedness to listen to the gospel such as we had given up hope of seeing. Needless to say that we are now trying to follow up this work by continued earnest prayer, by further special services, & by visiting & personal work."

And now just yesterday I had a letter from Mr Fournajieff of Kustendil telling of his work in such special meetings held at Haskovo, in the Philippopolis field. My letter is already so long that I shall now confine myself to copying for you what he says:—

Mr Fournajieff's Report for Haskovo.

At the outset let me say that our plan of work was of the simplest, and was attended with

remarkable success to our encouragement. With one exception, when both Mr Isakoff (the local pastor) & I spoke, I delivered a sermon at each of the public meetings. On Sundays we had forenoon and evening sermons, and in the afternoons services for special objects, — the young only; those calling themselves evangelicals (though a number of non-evangelicals also came); and the Lord's Supper. On four of the week-day evenings we had cottage-meetings in two or three different homes simultaneously. These meetings were largely attended, especially by Orthodox (non-evangelical) people. Some of the meetings were even held in Orthodox homes by the personal invitation of the families. These were the most encouraging meetings. They were so interested in the pure & simplest presentation of the gospel that even former persecutors invited us, one family inviting us a second time, so that we had to "cut" an evangelical home in order to go there again. The father & mother from this home both came personally to me & begged this privilege. The wife has been a persecutor of her husband simply because at one time he desired to be present at some evangelical services. But she prepared a special & large room for the meeting; & the attendance at her house was overflowing both times. This couple attended our meetings regularly towards the end; and the last Saturday evening the husband told Mr Isakoff that they had

decided to go together. This is only one of a number of similar cases. Our aim in all our meetings was to present only the gospel of Christ; and Mr Isakoff told me he was surprised at the deep interest which the people manifested in the message.

The cottage meetings proved feeders to the services in the church. We had announced that any interested in their souls' salvation might receive appointments for personal conversation with us. We had several such cases, with very happy results.

We also resorted to much visiting, not only in homes but in the shops in the slack hours of the day. Then we visited the lukewarm adherents & church-members, as well as new people showing interest for the first time, & speaking to groups of men here & there. Every afternoon, along with the pastor's wife, we visited homes, only for spiritual conversation & advice. Everywhere we saw that God was mightily working with the gospel. Many asked advice: others asked for the prayers of the church in behalf of their homes, husbands or wives, children or parents.

At the cottage meetings, besides singing, reading of Scripture, & talks on some live evangelical topic, opportunity was given for questions as to gospel teaching & Christian living. This turned out in a very gratifying way. No unfair or sceptical question was put. Often these meetings were prolonged to three hours or more, the people being ready to hear still more & more of the old, old story.

The attendance at the church kept increasing to the end, in spite of cold, muddy, & rainy weather. The building was full to overflowing.

The success with the backsliding members was

more doubtful. Some made good resolutions & promises; but others were hard to move. Almost all of them attended the church services & expressed personal gratification.

Our "decision" meeting was well attended; and the Holy Spirit manifestly worked with us. It was a time of deep self-searching; and 39 persons consecrated themselves to God and Jesus the Saviour, of whom 30 re-consecrated themselves as already professing Christians, while 9 did so for the first time. All who spoke & testified did so with deep feeling and a spirit of self-surrender to Jesus the Master.

Though we were both inexperienced, yet we received much encouragement & felt the Spirit leading. Somehow Mr Isakoff and I proved [illegible] sent the one to the other in the work. We [illegible] persons. Profit from the work & trust and pray that God may fructify the seed sown for His glory & for the good of all.

Apparently reports like these might be sent in from all the places where this special work has been done. Are we really at last on the eve of seeing a great & genuine awakening in Bulgaria? Oh how we pray that it may be so! Will you not join your prayers with ours?

Believe me,

Yours very sincerely,

Robt. Thomson.

Lawrence, Jan. 7. '95.

Rec'd JAN 30 1905 276

Samokov, Bulgaria.
14th January, 1905.

Ans'd FEB 1 1905

My dear Dr Barton,

May I ask you, please, to read carefully every word of the enclosed, & then forward it to its proper address. It explains itself.

In forwarding it, please add something from yourself. I would earnestly hope that you can see your way to backing up my plea strongly.

Then I shall be glad to hear from you how you think and what you wrote.

With cordial regards,
Yours very sincerely,
Robt. Thomson.

over.

P. S. The Trustees of the American College for Girls in Constantinople have passed a Resolution strongly re-affirming not merely the Christian but the missionary intention of the College, declaring that to be even of more importance than its educational intention.

They have also reappointed the Advisory Board, — I mean the old members of the Board, — for another term; & I have been asked to accept. In view of the above Resolu-

tion, which I would hope all will faithfully try to act up to, I have gladly accepted.

R. J.

Rev. Robert Thomson.

Lamakor. Jan. 14. 1905

COPY.

Rec'd FEB 1 1905

Mission of the American Board,

Samokov, Bulgaria, 14th January, 1905.

To the Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions
of the Methodist Episcopal Church, U. S. A.

Dear sir:

Recently, on the occasion of the visit of one of our native pastors to this town, he told me that he understood it was the intention of the Methodist Episcopal Mission in Northern Bulgaria to start a weekly paper at the beginning of this year, (today is the 1st January, old style).

I immediately wrote a letter to my old friend, Dr. Thomoff, of the said mission, in Varna, using certain pleas with him; but he wrote back and said that my information was not quite correct. The matter had been discussed, but had been left over to be settled at the Annual Meeting of the Mission next April.

Although so far relieved, I understood from this answer that there is a possibility of such a resolution being yet taken; and I therefore venture respectfully and very earnestly to call your attention to some considerations respecting this matter, in the hope that what I believe to be a disastrous step may be avoided, while on the other hand a very blessed step forward might be taken.

I cannot wait for the authority of our Annual Meeting to write this, as it will not assemble till April or May, which would be too late. But, as I have for many years been in charge of the literary and publication work of this Mission, I may perhaps be recognized as having some right to speak for my Mission about this matter; and I am taking the further precaution of sending my letter to you through our Secretary Barton, open for him to read.

You probably know that the weekly paper of our Mission, the Zornitza, which really grew out of the little monthly of the same name started started by the beloved Dr. Long, had a career of about a quarter of a century in Constantinople, honorable, and on the whole successful. But in 1896, under the pressure of great straitness of funds, we suspended it, intending to publish it more cheaply in some interior Bulgarian town. Five years passed, however, and circumstances remained so unpropitious that we could not take the paper up. But at last our native brethren clamoured so earnestly for a paper , that, when they showed their earnestness by giving up the publication of their own Monthly, "Home Friend" and in other ways undertaking the support of the paper, we once more ventured to start the "Zornitza" in Philippopolis in the beginning of 1902.

The paper is still respected, useful, and has a fairly good circulation, but, alas, not good enough to support it securely in view of the fact that our Mission appropriation to it is not as large as we should like it to be. Its life is a struggle; and at the end of each of these three years it has been a question whether we can go on with it. We have decided to go on into 1905. What will happen at the end of this year depends very largely on the action of your Mission.

Now the pleas that I used with Brother Thomoff were these. Both his Mission and mine have had lessons in the past which we ought to learn. We have both tried to keep up too many periodicals of one kind and another, and have had to give up first one and then another, till now there are left only your monthly "The Christian World," and our weekly the "Zornitza". These both ought to have more support amongst the Protestant community than they have; but our people at

present seem to have very little taste for good reading. The friends in your field hace worked loyally for our "Zornitza", as we have worked loyally for their "Christian World"; but neither of them is near self-support.

Now if your Mission were to start a new weekly, it would just mean that we would lose some more subscribers, leaving us in a more perilous position than ever; while there is no prospect that the new venture would thrive any better than its predecessors.

What I suggested to Brother Thomoff , and what I venture very earnestly to suggest to you is, that here we have a grand opportunity to work together. Why not continue the two present publications, the "Zornitza" and the "Christian World", having them edited by two men, one from your field and one from ours, and being supported by our joint funds?

There would be no difficulty about making the "Zornitza" a church paper for both of us.

The advantages are obvious. We should economize means. We should all be saved the constant anxiety as to the possibility of maintaining these publications. With two editors, who could arrange work so that each could have a month's vacation yearly, another difficulty would be removed. We might have an enlarged, stronger, and every way more useful paper. And, above all,- and oh! how I have prayed and longed for this for years,- we should have something that would bind us together, tha would interest us in the work of each other and stimulate usto more earnest and intelligent prayer for each other, and that would testify to the Bulgarian public; as little else could, of our unity. I do beseech you and all whom this question concerns to

see what this situation means,- a call to avoid the mistakes of the past, and a blessed opportunity for joining forces, economizing the Lord's means, and showing our unity.

I can see only one difficulty; and it need not be insurmountable. If my solution is impracticable, another ought not to be hard to find. The difficulty is that your joint editor would need to live in our field or ours in yours; and that each would be expected to do other work in addition to the editing.

My solution is this. Let us remove the "Zornitza's" publication place from Philippopolis to Sofia, the capital. Sopia is not very far from the dividing-line between the spheres of our two Missions. A few years ago, when Dr. Davis was Superintendent of your Mission, he expressed the feeling that, as many of your people might migrate from the towns and villages of Sofia, you ought to be allowed to have a church in that important town. I strongly supported that idea, and succeeded in carrying several of my brethren with me; but the scheme fell through,- why, I don't remember. I would now advocate your editor being allowed to start a Methodist church in Sopia. There is room for a second evangelical church. We have long wished to have one; butmeans failed us. Of course, there would need to be a distinct and honorable understanding that your coming into our field must be confined solely and strictly to Sofia.

But is this solution of the difficulty is not approved, some other ought to be found,- must be found rather than perpetuate what seems to me the folly and the sin of starting a rival paper which has no chance of even as much success as ours has had.

Please give careful attention to this, and let your views be made known as soon as possible to your men on the field and to the

visiting bishop.

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) Robt. Thomson.

Sec. of the Board of Foreign Missions,
M. E. Church, U. S.A.

visiting Bishop.

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) Robt. Thomson.

Secy. Bd. for Fr. Missions, M.E. Church.
Acknowledgment.
Jan. 14. 1905

Rec'd MAR 3 1905

Rec'd APR 28 1905

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Samokov, Bulgaria.
18th February, 1905.

My dear Dr Barton,

Nine days ago I returned from a three weeks' absence spent chiefly in Sofia, where I had been sent by my Station to interview the Minister of Education in regard to the official recognition of our two institutions here as gymnasia. As Mr Ostrander, Secretary of the Mission & Director of the Collegiate & Theological Institute, has written you fully on the educational question, I shall not refer to it, but shall report briefly on some other things that interested me in the capital and in Kustendil and Dubnitza which I visited on the way back.

Sofia Church. The audiences continue to be large & interested, a marked feature of them being the great proportion of men attending, of whom again a large number are young men — students. At the close of the one service when I preached Mr Popoff introduced me to a company of six or eight such students, in whom, he told me, he was feeling a peculiarly deep interest. They attend the services regularly, show intelligent and earnest attention, read, enquire, & think for themselves, and seem determined to get at the truth. But indeed the whole audience is always markedly appreciative; and, judging by the sermons which I heard Mr Popoff preach, they have presented to them simply & forcibly the gospel & the Christian life.

No one, looking upon these audiences, & knowing the nature of the spiritual food served up to them, can fail to feel what a powerful centre of good influence that church is.

Mr Vatralsky's monthly Sunday evening lecture is still a feature of the intellectual life of the capital. When he is advertised to speak the church is always crowded. His addresses, though not sermons, are capable of doing the work of half-a-dozen such sermons as one sometimes hears. His appeal is perhaps mostly to the manhood of people; and his own character is so essentially honest, & his method of address so straight-forward & forcible, that he powerfully influences his audiences, & always for good.

There is a fine band of devoted workers in the church; and while, unfortunately, as in so many other places, absolute harmony does not prevail, there is a large enough majority in hearty oneness of spirit with their pastor to afford him very efficient help."

I greatly wish the church might be aided in its pressing need of funds to effect large repairs & additions. The church in the capital ought to be both a larger, a more substantial, a more comfortable, & even a more beautiful building than it is. Its work hitherto deserves such recognition & encouragement. But to raise $2000 is not an easy task. About one quarter of the sum has been secured; but it is the first quarter that comes easily: the rest will be hard to get.

I should have mentioned that one interesting figure in the audiences has for a long time regularly been the ex-priest Semenoff, who discarded his sacerdotal position & became a layman that he might save himself from the ecclesiastical punishment that

awaited him. His story is too long to go into here. At heart he is a reformer, & he attempted reforms whilst in his parish in Philippopolis. His numerous pamphlets are outspoken & to a large extent evangelical. It was this & this alone that brought upon him the wrath of his superiors & compelled him to demit his priestly office. But thus far at least his activity seems to be arrested. He does not see his way to cast in his lot with us, because he considers the episcopal form of church government necessary. That he does nothing independently is perhaps not surprising when one knows his circumstances. Yet many persons looked hopefully, & perhaps still do, to him as the coming reformer. Mr Popoff interprets his regular attendance at his services as an indication that he finds there spiritual help which he can get nowhere else.

Women's work for Women. I had the privilege of being present at the Monthly Mothers' Meeting, held in Miss Clarke's Kindergarten rooms, & presided over by Mrs Kasirova. Two months previously, Mr Michailovski, a distinguished man of letters, & member of the National Assembly, had delivered to the assembled ladies a rather remarkable address, very outspoken & very earnest, and coming almost to the verge of evangelicalism. It was an address for which all were profoundly thankful; and it has had the effect, amongst other things, of giving an éclat to these gatherings which appears likely to be helpful to them for a long time to come. On this occasion our good friend from Philippopolis, Mr Vulkov Popoff, also a member of the National Assembly, had been asked to address the meeting; and the audience that gathered was remarkable. I counted them as they left — 92, besides children & the ladies in the house. And widg-

ing by their faces & their dress, amongst these ladies there must have been many of the most intelligent women of the city, & from the best families. Yet it was pleasant to see freely mixed among them not a few of the very humblest classes. Mr Shopoff had of course to remember that he was speaking to an audience of which the great majority were not Protestants; but he succeeded all the same very tactfully in introducing & pressing home some advice such as we would consider of the very first importance in the right training of children. Very striking was the absolute stillness of the ladies & their reverent demeanour while he was speaking & while prayer was offered at the close. Miss Clarke said, I think, that the size of the audience had been exceeded only on the occasion of Mr Michailovski's address, though even then not by much.

When the new special premises of the Kindergarten are erected on the fine site that has been secured for them, the large hall will accommodate a much larger number than can at present be received, and in a much more comfortable way. That hall, in desire at least, as I know, and most surely, as I believe, will be not only the training room of the little ones, great as that honour will be, but the training room of the mothers also, & the centre of much of that helpful and blessed work which only women can do for women.

Kustendil. It was a great pleasure to be once more visiting this interesting town & trying to do a little to sustain the hands of the devoted workers there, Mr D. N. Fournajieff & his wife. I preached twice on the Sunday, when the audiences numbered 82 & 28, giving a total that had only twice before been exceeded. But what an advance it was on the numbers when I was there five years ago, - certainly three or four times larger, - and attending not

chiefly from curiosity, but with earnest interest. But for a lecture delivered in the national school at the same hour as the morning service Mr Fournajieff thought that the audience would have been still larger. As it was, one of the national teachers was present with his wife. In the evening some half dozen earnest young students from the agricultural college attended — as is their regular wont — in spite of the attractions of a public soirée.

Mr & Mrs Fournajieff have been enabled by God's blessing to bring about a most remarkable change in the attitude & sentiment of the public towards them by their Christian living & work during their years of residence in the town. The violent opposition & almost hatred at first displayed have not only been overcome, but have been changed into respect, friendliness, & even hearty kindness. The national teachers are all very cordial towards them; & the one who was present at the Sunday service, who would never go near his own church, expresses deep interest. Most remarkable of all is the attitude of the priests. Not one of them moves tongue or finger against them, whilst one of them is friendly & intimate to cordiality. But the most wonderful change is that in the archimandrite (abbot) who at first was their virulent, abusive, & unscrupulous opposer & persecutor. It was my privilege with Mr Fournajieff to call on this dignitary; and I fairly lost my heart to the genial old man, so kind & good did he seem! I think that God has used some events in his own life to open his eyes as to where his own church stands & as to the need of a true spiritual revival; & this has led him to abandon hostility to a work which he recognizes as aiming at just what is most necessary for the

nation. Mr Fournajieff is perhaps, in a sense, his best friend in town; certainly he is the man with whom he most loves to talk & consult as to the spiritual trend, & as to what is the best to be done. In his conversation when I called he talked with hearty & unstinted praise in particular of our "Zornitza" & other publication work, & mentioned that he often buys in quantity some of our smaller books & tracts & distributes them as prizes or gifts amongst children, soldiers, & others to whom he ministers. He spoke with astonishing liberality of our general work, & in taking a most cordial leave of me expressed the hope that I would call on him again when next visiting the town.

I hope my next visit may not be very long delayed, for another little experience has drawn out my heart to a lonely one there. With Mr & Mrs Fournajieff I visited the families of all regularly connected with the church, & a few others also where we knew we would be welcomed. Amongst the latter was the family of a Swiss lady, a Protestant, who married a good many years ago a Bulgarian lawyer, but whose life since coming to his country has not been of the happiest. Her face bore the marks of long & continued suffering & sadness. Life for her is bound up in her two young daughters; but in reply to a remark of mine the mother said that her children had not yet been baptized. Had she known earlier of my coming she would have tried to persuade her husband to let me administer the rite to them; and she thought she would try & might succeed for the next time I was there. We had, as we had in all the houses visited, prayer, in this case in English & with reading of a Psalm; & the comfort brought to that poor lone heart was manifest in the tears in the eyes & in the warm grasp with which she shook my hand as we closed.

It was delightful to find the cheerful & confident spirit of faith with which Mr & Mrs Fournajieff work. It so happens that all the additions that they have secured to the church have been offset by removals to other towns, so that the membership there is scarcely larger than at first in spite of the increased audiences. Then too the audience is largely made up of students, mostly from other towns, whose circumstances would make it difficult for them to join the Kustendil church even if they felt inclined. But they told me that they were content to work on in this way so long as God thought best to make it their lot, happy in the thought that they were helping to feed churches in other towns, & making their mark in towns that would become centres of influence elsewhere. Special mention should also be made of Mrs Fournajieva as a tower of strength in her work amongst women & children.

The site that has been acquired in Kustendil for church & parsonage could scarcely be better. It is most central, in a good locality, & with ample frontage and room. But would that the Lord might open the heart of someone to give what is necessary for erecting the church. It need not be very large at first: there is plenty of room to extend it when needed. But almost anything would be better than the room in the parsonage which is at present utilized. It is too small: it is so low in the roof that the air soon becomes vitiated, & people have objected to coming simply on that account. And then, above all, the national ideas are strongly prejudiced against worshipping in a house. The smallest & even meanest church would be more acceptable in their eyes than the best room in a house.

Dubnitza. I spent just an evening in this town, conducting the weekly Prayer Meeting. The little community

does not grow. Humanly speaking, Dubnitza, the centre of the Macedonian revolutionary movement, is about the most hopeless place in Bulgaria. Yet even there there was the little encouragement that one leading family in the church, long a stumbling block to the rest through the evil spirit shown, has changed & become humbled in submission to the love of Christ; & that the joyous faith of one & another remains unclouded & strong. Mr Karaivanoff, the excellent evangelist there (father of Mrs Tournafieva of Kustendil) is doing good & patient work.

Home again. I get back to find the audiences at our special services as large & interested as ever. We have been too backward in advertising & inviting. People here & everywhere are more ready to come & hear than we had believed.

But there is a new sensation in town. A woman, not connected with our church, but who has sometimes been to the Friday women's meetings, has been for some time collecting women in one of the rooms of the national school to read & explain to them the Bible. On the occasion of the recent death of a prominent town-man, when the church service was held in connection with his funeral, she told the women that the service would profit the man nothing: all depended on how he had lived & had been towards Christ. This roused the local clergy against her; & the school has been closed against their gathering. But now about one hundred women have signed a petition asking that the room be allowed them, for they love these Bible readings & find them most profitable.

This attitude of the priests goes to confirm what Mr Tournafieff expressed to me as his opinion, that the enmity of the teachers to the church will increase, & that eventually they will succeed in inducing the country to follow France & put an end to the state-established church. The teachers are at present largely infidel, but it is because of the kind of thing which the national church puts before them as religion. Some of them say that to a pure & rational religion they would have no objection: it is superstition & degraded formalism that they are opposed to. And there are signs that many in Bulgaria are feeling the need for their souls of a living & feeding religion which their own church not only does not give them, but seeks to crush.

Yours very sincerely, Robt. Thomson.

P.S. Many thanks for your letter of the 1st inst., with enclosure, received yesterday. R.T.

Constantinople, Oct. 16, 1905.

REC'D JUN 5 1905

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Samokov, Bulgaria.
22nd May, 1905.

ANS'D JUN 8 1905

My dear Dr Barton,

I was glad to receive your letter of May 3rd the other day. I communicated to Mr Ostrander the request about the early forwarding of the Annual Meeting documents; and I believe that they will have reached you before you receive this.

Travelling expenses for Mrs Thomson & children. I am thankful to be able to tell you that, in spite of the much & rather serious sickness there has been in my family this winter, my wife's health has steadily improved, while the young folks seem all to be well again. They are therefore planning to come out as soon as possible after the close of the school year. My wife will evidently need to be careful for some time to come still; and I confess I am a little anxious about her & the journey: still I trust that she may be strengthened for it & mercifully brought through in safety.

I trust you will approve the decision that they are to come out by sea from ~~Cons~~ Liverpool to Constantinople. It is not only desirable for them from a health point of view, but it is also vastly easier for a woman travelling without any man to attend to business for her. In fact, my wife simply could not come overland with the children & the baggage.

The fare is somewhat more expensive than by

land; but I think that is counterbalanced by the consideration that all baggage is carried free on the steamer, whereas it constitutes a heavy charge on land. I asked Mrs Thomson to get from the S.S. Agent a statement of what the charge for the family party would be, — herself + four children, ranging from 9 to 19 years of age. (My oldest boy will remain in Scotland at his farming; but any way he is beyond the age limit + is "off the Board's hands.") She received a reply in which the company agreed to take the party, at a reduction, for £60 stg. if it was one of the larger boats that sailed, or £53 if one of the smaller. To that will have to be added the travelling expenses from Constantinople to here; but the money for that can be drawn from the Sect. As the vessel may sail the last week of June or the first week of July, may I ask you, if all this is approved, to send my wife at once the sum of

£60.—.— stg.

for travelling expenses. A full account will of course be rendered.

Mr Rockefeller's Gift. I have of course been interested in this gift + the controversy that it has given rise to. But as I am quite unacquainted with anything but the barest hearsay about Mr Rockefeller's business methods, I do not feel capable of judging; while the fact that I am not an American makes me disinclined to express an opinion in any case. But, if I may be allowed to say so, the arguments in the two documents issued by the Prudential Committee & printed in the May "Mis-

sionary Herald" carry with them the consent of my judgment as the case is there stated. I am glad to hope that, whatever the final decision, it will not cause a split or give rise to any such trouble as followed the Andover controversy.

Our needs in the Printing Department had been so generously provided for already that I felt it right to let much the larger part of what came to us go to the Carpentry Department, which greatly needed help. I suggested 7/10ths of the $2500 to that department, & 3/10ths to this; and that was agreed to. But this $750 has enabled me to make my order for new type larger & more complete than it would have been otherwise. With that secured, I may say that we have no other immediate needs here, & should be able to get on well for a good many years to come. I am very thankful for the aid.

Annual Meeting topics. You ask to hear from me in regard to some of the very important questions that were discussed. It so happens that I was appointed to write the Letter to the Rooms; & while I tried to voice the general views of the Mission, the Letter expressed pretty fully my own views, & I don't know that I can add much more.

I may say, in regard to our two Samoan schools, that I was slow of reaching a judgment in regard to them. I saw several difficulties & disadvantages in further raising the standard & securing government recognition. But gradually I came to feel, & it is now my decided & settled conviction, that we must either do this, or expect to sink lower & lower till we finally are nowhere. I know it means more funds; but I think the Committee ought to know that it is a choice between what we ask for & extinction at no distant date. Or,

there remains the one alternative, let us give up the Collegiate part of the Institute, & make the Seminary part so efficient that students will not be tempted to go to America. Only, the evangelical community here seems to me to have the right to an evangelical college.

The need of additional missionaries is very great. I know you are seeking for the right persons, and I fully appreciate the difficulties about which you wrote to Mr Ostrander lately. It implies no suggestion that you are not doing all that is possible if we, in view of our great need, keep repeating our reminders of the fact. Aside from the calls made at the Meeting, I may say that I have felt this year, although I have been working hard & incessantly, that the work of the Publication Department needs at least half the time of another missionary. I have been unable to keep up with it. And if the time comes when the Mission will see, as it ought to see now, that there is serious need of a linguistic revision of the Bulgarian Bible, there ought to be a possibility for Mr Baird & me to give at least half of our time to that for some years. I call your attention again to the communication from the British & Foreign Bible Society on the subject.

As regards finance, I shall only say that the fact that we here feel compelled to pay our teachers in these schools higher salaries than many of the preachers receive, convinces me that the latter are underpaid. The churches certainly ought to do more (and we are constantly working at that); but we ought to do more also. Just to-day we have heard of one of our workers who, on being married this summer, will leave & go to America, because he can't get enough to live on with a family. His wife will be a great loss to the work. We ought to have more means even for the present body of workers, to say nothing of providing for expansion. But at the very least let me urge with all possible earnestness the Mission's plea that our Estimates be granted us in full.

Believe me, with kindest regards, Yours very truly,

Robt. Thomson.

Rec'd. Aug. 22-1900.

REC'D JUL 7 1905

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Samokov, Bulgaria.
22nd June, 1905.

ADM'D SEP 2 1905

My dear Dr Barton,

Your letter of the 9th inst. has just reached me.

I hasten to express my thanks that the money for travelling expenses was sent to Mrs Thomson without waiting for the vote of the Prudential Committee. I was not aware that such a vote was necessary. I find nothing about it in the "Handbook." I had supposed that the vote of the Mission two years ago inviting Mrs Thomson & me to return was all that was necessary. Don't you think it would be a pretty sure way of getting a missionary to resign if the Committee should refuse to let a wife return to her husband? However, I again thank you for sending the money without waiting for the vote.

As to the children, I have to plead guilty to having forgotten the words on p. 27 of the Handbook in reference to their return to the Mission field. I did not have any conversation with you on the subject; & there was no understanding about the matter. Rather it has been my own

misunderstanding. Well, I hope you will bear with me if I am in debt for some time to come; for I don't feel quite prepared to say Good-bye to my children at twelve years of age. I shall see to it that only the expenses of Mrs Thomson and the little boy fall upon the Board.

I am very hard pressed with work, and cannot add more than that the order for new type has been sent off. After it comes, we hope that our new press, which is now working beautifully, printing 1500 impressions an hour, will turn out still better work.

All are well. Everyone is full of preparations for the closing of the school year.

With cordial regards,

Yours very sincerely,

Robt. Thomson.

Samokov, Bulgaria, June 23-05.

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Rec'd AUG 23 1905
Ans'd SEP 2 1905

Samokov, Bulgaria.
10th August, 1905.

My dear Dr. Barton,

I am happy to report to you the safe arrival here of my wife and four children on the evening of Friday last, the 4th inst.

In spite of great heat experienced in the ports touched at, they had an ideally pleasant voyage, and rested well.

Now that I have been able to observe them for a few days I can see that my wife, though grown somewhat stout & looking well, has little strength. Both head & body become very easily tired. I can but hope that this climate & the life here will prove more suitable than that of Glasgow has done. My oldest daughter, Nettie, is much pulled down after the four severe illnesses she had one after the other this spring. She will need a good deal of care. But she loves this place; and I hope it will do her much good. The others are very well. I trust that my daughters, who have to some degree musical & other gifts, may be able to be of some use in connection with some

of the work done in the church & the schools & in various ways.

Part of the things that my wife brought out with her had to be sent round by Varna & Sofia, & so may not be received for nearly a fortnight yet. Until these & the charges for them arrive I cannot make out the account of the travelling expenses; but I shall do so at the earliest possible moment, & shall report to you the share falling to the Board for Mrs Thomson & my youngest child. The steamship company carried all the baggage (which was considerable) free from Liverpool to Constantinople, & so more than made up for the greater cost of the tickets that way than if they had come overland.

I am greatly saddened & much troubled over the financial embarrassment of the Board. If only our Mission would sanction the much needed revision of the Bulgarian Bible, & you would put my salary into the Mission's funds, I would feel inclined to offer my services to the British & Foreign Bible Society, which is as anxious as I am to see the work undertaken. Meanwhile, I can but beseech God's blessing on the appeal made to the churches. May there be a response that shall float the work again.

With kindest regards, Yours very sincerely,

Robt. Thomson.

Samokov, Bul. Aug. 10-1905.

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Rec'd DEC 15 1905

Ans'd DEC 27 1905

Samokov, Bulgaria.
1st December, 1905.

My dear Dr Barton,

I was glad to receive the other day the note from Mr Wiggin with its so hearty approval of the account of travelling expenses (for Mrs Thomson & Duncan from Scotland) which I recently sent you.

I wish to write you to-day specially about two things.

First. I greatly regret that I have, very unintentionally got my printing department into debt in connection with the purchase of new type which Mr Rockefeller's gift encouraged me to make.

In brief, the explanation of it is this. Of the $2500 sent here, I allowed 7/10ths to go to the Carpentry Department, as being much more needy; and I quite thought that the $750 left for the Printing Department would, with the other funds on hand, be enough to meet the cost of the new type (Bulgarian and English) necessary. But —

(1) When it came to making out the order, I found it necessary to write for a little more than I at first intended.

(2) I was not prepared for the terribly heavy freight charges on the type from Vienna to here.

(3) Still less was I prepared for the enormous duty charged. I thought it would be 8%; but they charged 14%!

(4) The proportionate reduction of our appropriations this year has brought down the 200 Liras which we at first had for the Department to 158 Liras.

(5) Two of those who work with me in this Department used to be employed also in the Collegiate & Theological Institute, & so a part of their salary was met out of the Institute's funds; but this year they are not so employed, & all their salary has to be paid out of the funds of this Department.

& (6) Out of the 158 Liras of our appropriation, the Mission voted for 1905, & has also voted for 1906, aid to the "Zornitza" to the amount of 80 liras each year. I was aware of this, of course: I do not mention it as an unexpected thing; but it

will enable you to understand how limited our resources are.

The total income from Book Sales this year will amount to about 35 Liras.

Now I would not have written you about this, but would simply have taken steps for a big cutting down here next year (& even as it is I think I shall have to do something in that way), if I had supposed that I should have to ask a grant from the ordinary funds of the Board. I should have known that that was hopeless, & would not have done it. But since this debt is wholly due to the unexpected largeness of the expenses connected with the new of type, I think it would be perfectly in line with the conditions on which Mr Rockefeller's first gift was made to meet this debt out of a second gift from the same source, if it is to be had. You more than once wrote to us that in all probability the gift already sent would prove only the first, & that more would follow. I can honestly say that I did not count on this. I had no thought of going beyond what I had. But so it is.

The debt amounts to $370=.

Could I have $400? or, better, $440 = 100 liras Turkish?

Second. In the last letter I had from you you made some reference to what I had written as to Bible Revision.

Leaving aside for the moment, as of no present importance, the first part of what you said, I wish to say just a word about the latter part.

Forgive me if I say that I was both surprised and sorry to find you committing yourself so completely in opposition to Bible revision, when you have certainly not heard both sides of the case. I know that Dr Marsh is opposed to it, & that probably Dr Haskell is also. Dr Haskell could not have a more loyal or affectionate daughter than is Miss Haskell of the Girls' School here; yet only the other day she felt constrained, when someone asked what her father's views were about a question that was being discussed, to reply: "You may always know where to find father & Dr Marsh: they are against everything new." And I add: "His witness is true," though I have a great respect for these brethren, & a great love for one of them.

However, it is not my purpose to enter into the argument at length here. But I wish

to say just three things.

(1) Drs Riggs & Long made changes in the Bible every ie that they put a fresh edition through the press. And e last time Dr Riggs spoke with me on the subject, just a er or two before his death, he told me of several changes had come to feel necessary the next time he read a oof of the Bible. And Dr Riggs always insisted that ving aside as he did in Constantinople, he could not tend to keep pace with the advance of the Bulgarian nguage. He left to others to do that, & reserved to himself only the making sure that the Hebrew was correctly nslated.

(2) In spite of the views of Drs Haskell & Marsh e Mission authorized a committee (Mr Baird & self & three Bulgarians) to prepare a tentative ised translation (made very conservatively) of the spel of Luke. All the Bulgarians were in favour this.

(3) We of the committee have half finished our rk; & the more we go into it the more we be- me convinced of the importance & necessity of s revision. Our work will not be perfect. It l be criticized; and I know in advance what e opponents will try to say & do about it. But the same, we shall be greatly surprised if the ised text does not commend itself very favourably

to open-minded people & competent judges.

I repeat that I do not wish to go fully into the argument of the case. That is a matter for the Mission rather than for you. But I think it right to say so much to you to show you that there is another side to the question, & to urge that you should keep an open mind on the subject. If I cared to write strongly I could say very much more in support of the position that I have taken than what is contained above.

I am happy to say that the improvement in health of Mrs Thomson & my oldest daughter is steady, though slow.

Believe me, with kindest regards,
Yours very sincerely
Robt. Thomson.

Robt. Thomson
Dec. 1st 1905

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Rec'd JAN 5 1906

Ans'd APR 12 1906

Samokov, Bulgaria.
23d December, 1905.

My dear Dr Barton,

Now that we have all read the accompanying report, I think it is best to forward it to you. It is by Mr Tournajieff of Kustendil (in the field of this Station) telling of his thirteen days of special evangelistic effort in Bourgas (in the field of the Philippopolis Station) along with the local pastor Mr Pachejieff.

You will see that, while the report can tell of nothing very remarkable, yet it confirms our impression that there is a wonderful readiness among the people to come

& hear the gospel, and that, if there are not heavy harvests waiting to be garnered, there are at least the many ones & twos, who are not to be despised.

Mr Tournajieff has quite the evangelistic spirit, although, in my judgment, his mind is of too philosophical a turn to make him so effective as a speaker as Mr Sechanoff & some others. Nevertheless at Bourgas, as at Haskovo in the spring, he has been enabled to do good work.

The church here will probably invite him to come & hold special services for a fortnight shortly after the second term begins, perhaps early in February; & we may possibly invite Dr House, if there is

any hope of his coming. We have a nice set of students this year; and with God's blessing some good work may be done among them.

It is a very great disappointment to me to hear that there is no chance of a deputation visiting us this year. It seems as though so many questions in our Mission had reached a critical stage that we could hardly ever be more in need of the help that would come from such a visitation than now. But, we must "cease, saying — The will of the Lord be done."

With cordial regards,

Yours very sincerely,

Robt. Thomson.

Robert Thomson S

Samokov. Bul. Dec. 23-1905.

Kustendil, Dec. 7, 1905.

Dear Mr. Thomson:

It falls to me to give a brief report of the Samokov Station for the time I was absent from my own post. Pastor Pachejeff did not write to the ~~Plovdiv~~ Philippopolis Station as fully as I wanted, which would have sufficed for both Stations.

We labored together in Bourgas just 13 days. At the outset I must mention that had the meeting house been anywhere nearer the Bulgarian quarters, and not so far ~~out of~~ from them and out of the city itself, we could report far better results. I can say that Bourgas is ready for the Gospel as no other Bulgarian city (to my knowledge) is. There were times when the capacity

Kustendil. Dec 7. 1905
Rev. J. Pannotoff to
Mr. Thomson

of the House of Prayer was overtaxed & that with earnest seekers after truth.

Our plan of work was a very simple one. It was such that almost all of the friends could participate in. It meant three things: prayer, preaching, & personal work. At the outset we tried to make the friends realize the importance of the work & how they can help. Selecting individuals to pray for and to have personal work with them, was the first thing we asked of them.

We did not have a sermon every night of the week, but tried to have time enough to follow up the impression of every sermon. We advertised

regularly, people came in larger numbers & witnessed to the effect of the sermon, and then we tried personal work dealing with their personal responsibility. We also arranged for a public lecture in the theater by the sea shore, where a crowded house listened to a lecture from me on the rôle of Christianity in the development of civilization.

Our most effective work was evenings in various homes where we were needed most.

The last Sunday p.m. we had the decision meeting, at which all the Christians joyfully reconsecrated themselves to the Lord and four made profession of faith for the first time.

The most noteworthy of these are two ~~Two of these are the most re-markable, both~~ young men of my age, in business, intelligent, & with families. One was the husband of D. B. He said that as a result of these meetings he was "filled with holy joy & felt like going out & calling all to come in". He brought his father to the meetings. The other was Mr. M's brother in law. He told of how he had at different times believed ~~gone the business of belief~~ in every thing — God, atheism, socialism, — but now he had found the truth. "You have revealed to me the truth, and I'll follow it to the best of my ability," he said. The work there is very encouraging & the workers are very much encouraged. In spite of the terrible mud, rain & wind, the meetings were full. Representatives of the best class of people came. I quite envy Pastor Pachejieff the good prospects for the future.

Best regards to all the members of the station. Fraternally, D. N. Furnajieff.

R. Thomson 285

Report Letter No. 3, to the Churches of Orleans Conference.

Samokov, Bulgaria, May 10, 1906

Dear Friends,-

The six months that have passed since I wrote my last letter to you have been very interesting and encouraging ones. I don't know what Mr. Baird may have said to you in his intermediate letter of three months ago; but if to any extent I go over the same ground as he did, I dare say I shall do it in my own way, and it will not be wholly repetition for you.

I am planning this to arrive in time to be read at the Annual Conference. I hear it is to meet at Coventry this year,- the first place that I landed at when I made my visit of three years ago. I well remember the warm reception that made me feel at home at once. I am glad to understand that Mr. and Mrs. Bole are still with the church. I have not had the pleasure of receiving any special letters from Coventry as I have from one or two other places; but to the pastor and his wife and family, and to all who are still with the church of those that then gathered in it, I desire to send my special salutations. I pray that the Conference may be a time of much blessing and quickening. Of the ministers who may be present, I can think only of Mr. Hall, Mr. Barton and Mr. Ramage as left of my acquaintances; but I know there will be many of the members from all the churches. The Lord be with you all, dear brothers and sisters. It is a joy to me to know that our connection with each other is proving helpful. I thank God that you continue to remember me and pray for me, that you are being helped to give more largely for the work, and that the roused missionary interest is not confined to Bulgaria alone, but is taking in all Christ's world. I can assure you I am much helped in my work by your connection with me; and I wish, besides this, to repeat in public the thanks I have sent personally to the two or three friends in the country who, either in behalf of their church, or on their own account, have written to me. I have greatly appreciated their letters. And I am sure also that you must feel as well as I do how much we owe to Mr. Barton for the diligence and earnestness with which he cultivates this special department of the Conference's work. His letters have given me much cheering information about you all.

Quite the chief feature of this past winter's work has been the renewed evidence it has given us of the openness of the Bulgarians to the gospel message. One or two of our pastors have a special inclination and some considerable aptitude for what is distinctively known as evangelistic work; and one of these encouraged by the success he met with the previous year in Haskovo, did similar work along with the pastor in Bourgas during two or three weeks last October. The results were again very happy - so far. We have to admit that the actual number of additions to the churches is not great. There is much to explain that; and I shall give you presently my views on the future of the work here. But to have the meeting-houses crowded night after night, with large numbers standing outside, all listening with interest and sympathy to the preaching of Christ, is

what a few years ago we should not have expected to see. It is an indication both of the awakening of the nation to spiritual things, and of the breaking down of prejudice against the gospel work. But the evangelist was still more encouraged with the personal work he did in Bourgas than with the preaching. He laid himself out specially for that, and felt afterwards that it had rewarded his efforts. Most of those that were gathered in were the result of such personal work.

Then, in February last, the same evangelist (Mr.Fournajieff of Kustendil) came for two or three weeks' work in our church here, having been invited by the church. And in this town of long-standing prejudice and apathy the scenes of last year were repeated. There are many who now understand what the gospel is as never before, and who not only do not hold aloof from us any more, but have in their hearts a leaven working which must change them in some way. After Mr. Fourdajieff's departure we had our colleague, Dr. House of Salonica, to come and clinch the work with the peculiar spiritual power that he has; and as a result, about half of the young men in our Institute, and very nearly all the girls in the Boarding School, seem to have been brought to decide for Christ. Some of these are to be received into the church next Sunday; and I know you will rejoice with me when I tell you that my second daughter, Katie, under Dr. House's influence, and through the sympathetic help of a girl-friend, also made the decision, and is to be admitted next Sunday.

We have a particularly nice set of pupils in the schools this year, particularly in the boys' Institute. I think we feel that the issues of this year's work amongst them are specially hopeful. We expect to have quite a good sized Theological Class next year; and there are other students in the lower classes who we hope will offer for the work later on, and will turn out very useful. The details of one or two cases, if one had time to go into them, would be most interesting to you.

But what I think is really more a sign of the times than anything directly connected with our work is the evidence we have seen this winter that there are stirrings in the national heart, and seekings after God, in circles which are outside of our immediate influence. Persons - sometimes the last that we should have expected have become alarmed at the prevailing demoralization of the youth of the country, and at the godlessness and lack of moral basis in the national education; while the felt hunger and emptiness of life has led many to a seeking after the bread of heaven which seems very real and sincere. We trust we have enough of the true spirit of Christ only to rejoice in those signs of awakening, and to sympathize with them though they may not work exactly on our lines. We believe that our work in the land has kept alive and spread spiritual life, and so had made these movement more possible. We believe that these movements, even if they never come into co-operation with our work (as it is likely they will not for the present) are yet sustained and strengthened by what we are doing. We see clearly that a movement, not from abroad, but of native growth and within the national church, would be immensely more powerful to reform than anything we can do. And so we try to accept with meekness what seems to be God's plan for our work here, that it shall never figure as of striking magnitude and importance, believing that if we can, in a quieter way, help on a great national movement we shall really be doing a greater work. I trust you can all have faith to be ready to work with us even in this humbler way.

But I may repeat to you what I said to a large gathering of our people last week,- I cannot help putting my own interpretation on Bulgaria's unique position in south eastern Europe as regards the gospel. Greece got it, and drove it out. Servia, Roumania and Montenegro have steadily closed their doors against it. The Albanians have made no response to it. Bulgaria alone in the Balkan Peninsula has accepted it and knows something of its power. And since we Westerners know that the gospel means, not only spiritual salvation, but political freedom, intellectual enlightenment, advance and progress and strength in all right ways, I believe that the indication is that Bulgaria is designed by God to play a role here in the east that may make her the Great Britain or America of this part of Europe. On other grounds it is considered the most hopeful of these small nations; but this is its greatest ground of hope, and I believe it will not be disappointed. It is worth while working for such a people, is it not?

My own work has been steady as usual. I am still carrying through the press the new edition of the Bible. A committee of which I am chairman has also almost finished a revision of the Gospel of Luke, which we hope may prepare the way for a larger revision. We have finished and brought out our "New Testament History". I am at work preparing and printing a "Life of Christ" in the words of the four gospels. I am also preparing and printing a second, revised and enlarged edition of my (Bulgarian) "Method for learning English". We have printed some new tracts and some new editions of old ones. And now our Hymn Books are waiting to be revised and reprinted. I am kept very busy; but my health is good.

My family is now all with me; and on the whole we have much to be thankful for. I am afraid that the condition of my wife's head is an indication that her work will have to be little more than relieving me to the utmost of all family cares; and I try to respond by working specially hard at my mission work. But aside from her head, her general health is good. My oldest daughter finds her strength slowly returning. She and Katie help in the Girls' School.

With affectionate salutations to you all,
Your missionary pastor,

Robert Thomson.

Boston, June 5, 1906.

Report of Robert Thomson
Samokov - Dear Paul - Pray 10-1906.

Rec'd AUG 28 1906
Ans'd AUG 29 1906

Samokov, Bulgaria.
9th August, 1906.

My dear Dr Barton,

I have several things to write to you about; but first let me express my earnest sympathy with yourself & all the staff at the Mission Rooms in connection with the death of Dr Judson Smith. It is a great loss in itself, and coming at this time of great stress & special effort [redacted] must bear specially heavily upon you. We pray that you all may be strengthened & helped, that the right man may be found to fill the place, & that meanwhile the great interests of the work may not suffer.

And now to business.

1. My third daughter, Ina (16 3/4 years), who had an attack of diptheria when in Scotland eighteen months ago, now seems, as we would hope, able to go on with some amount of study, yet is so far from strong that we do not wish her to be far from us, not even as far as Scotland. And so, encouraged partly by the advice of Mrs E. B. Haskell of Salonica, who is summering here, & partly by learning that when Jamie Haskell was sent to school in Germany the Board allowed for him the schooling-grant as though he had gone to America, on the ground that he was away from home, we have decided that we should like to send Ina

to school in the same place for two years, beginning next month. I desire therefore to make formal application, if the Committee will be so good, that the salary allowance for Ina may stop with the 31st of this month of August, & that the special school allowance may be granted as from 1st September to be drawn here semi-annually: also that I may be allowed to charge her travelling expenses to Germany.

2. When Dr Haskell was here recently, he and Mr Holway (the Station Treasurer) had occasion to overhaul the contents of the safe for something or other. In the course of their search they came across the enclosed letter from Mr Converse of Philadelphia (written nearly thirteen years ago), which explains itself. Mr Holway examined our books carefully, but can find no record that the $100 was ever received. The letter seems to have been forgotten. As the $1500 has been more than raised & spent on the new printing-press, and as we are in such dire need of funds, would it not be quite appropriate for you to ask Mr Converse to redeem his promise even now? I trust you may think so, & that the Publishing Department may get the much needed aid.

3. May I ask that the enclosed note may be forwarded to the Mason & Hamlin Organ Company. It is very brief; and you may possibly be interested to read what I have written to them.

4. I should like to report briefly to you the work of this last year, which is in some respects specially interesting. (a) The Committee of three Bulgarians and two missionaries, authorized in the spring of 1905 to make a tentative linguistic revision of the Bulgarian Bible's Gospel according to Luke, finished its work some two months ago. Since then I have printed our revised version on the press here for the British & Foreign Bible Society. It is a small edition, not for sale, but to be given only to competent judges for their opinion of the work & of the desirability of similarly revising the whole Bible. I hope to have many opinions in hand for next Annual Meeting. If favourable, there will be a strong argument for going on with the entire Bible. The work on this new version has only deepened & strengthened the feeling I had that the revision should not be delayed. Evidence multiplies. And for my part I cannot see what more important work missionaries or others could do than to try to make the Scriptures thoroughly acceptable, so far as form is concerned, to a people. I should think that the Board ought to rejoice to have such an opportunity put before it, & should encourage the work, even if it means some extra expense. I do trust the Committee may see it in this light if appealed to by next Annual Meeting. (b) My "Method for

Learning the English Language" (written in Bulgarian) was sold out in February; & since then we have been at work on the second edition. Profiting by the experience of those who have used it as a text-book, I have made great changes & improvements in the second edition. Indeed, the First Part (which is all we could overtake by Commencement time) is wholly re-written. The Second Part I hope to go on with next term. The book has not been out a fortnight yet, nor have the advertisements about it appeared yet, but already 3/40ths of the edition have been sold. It is the only book in the field; & there will be a still greater demand for it, as the Government is introducing the study of English, not only in some of the chief gymnasia of the land, but also in the University at Sofia. Mrs Holway said that she had known of Chambers of Commerce giving grants in aid for such work, because the learning of English helps trade. Acting on the hint, I tried the Chambers of London, Liverpool, Glasgow, & New York, but in vain. Do you think that, if personal influence could be secured, an appeal to the Boston Chamber might succeed?

(c) We have also completed our abridged translation of Smith's New Testament History, intended to be used both as a text-book and for general reading. Though evangelical in tone it is quite non-polemical.

(d) And we have printed for the first time, as a companion to the above, The Life of our Lord only in the words of the Four Gospels, chronologically arranged, & woven into one continuous & comprehensive story.

This, together with some new tracts, & new editions of old ones, is what we have done this year; and that, along with my share of preaching & the other work of the Station & Mission, has constituted the heaviest year of labour that I have yet known (for, of course, in addition to these, I have still being going on with putting through the press the new editions of the Bible & of the New Testament & Psalms which are being printed in Constantinople). I love & enjoy the work; but I confess I am feeling very tired.

5. The failure of the appeal which Mr Ostrander sent out for funds to meet the needs of the C. & T. Institute & of our Publication Department has greatly distressed me. As a consequence, I have been obliged to dismiss as from 1st January next, my only translator & assistant in the literary work. It is for him that I chiefly feel. He is one of our own graduates, but has been employed as teacher & as my assistant for the last twenty years or more. He is a married man, with two young children. Now there is no work for him anywhere (he is not a clergyman). What he will do, I don't know.

I tell you, Dr Barton, my conscience is not easy about our native workers. We give them starvation salaries, on which they can't lay by: they are in the midst of an unsympathetic & perhaps unfriendly nation: their own communities are too feeble to help them; and yet, after they have given us the best years of their life, we drop them without anything. I can't feel that it's right. If I were a millionaire to-morrow, I shouldn't give the Board a cent till I had first provided sickness, furlough, & retiring funds for the native workers of at least our Mission.

However, to return to the financial condition of our Publication Department, I wish to say that, unless we close our press at once, we shall have to get into debt by the end of the year. But to close the press means to deprive some thirty students of the aid they rely on for getting through the school year. I trust, however, that the saving of Mr Dobroffski's salary during 1907 will enable me to wipe out the debt before the close of next year. Under these circumstances the Station here has approved of my going on with the work in this way; and I trust it will meet your approval also.

With cordial regards from us all,

I am Yours very sincerely,

Robt. Thomson.

Lomsokov, Bulgaria Aug. 9, 1906

Rec'd DEC 15 1906

Samokov, Bulgaria.
1st December, 1906.

My dear Dr Barton,

I shall presume that you received my note of a month or more ago in which, at the request of Bulgarian brethren here, I unofficially asked that, if possible, you would take no action on the Mission's Circular Vote as to opening Sofia to the Methodist Mission till you received word of the views to be expressed at our regular autumn Conference. Yesterday I received the official communication of the action of the Conference; and I hasten to communicate it to you at once.

The special significance of the Conference was two-fold: first, it gave a chance to Bulgarian laymen & to the sisters to express their views, whereas the pastors & preachers alone, or almost alone, had been consulted previously; and, second, it was chiefly the friends in the Sofia church — the church which in one sense is most interested in the question — who gave their views.

The result was that one person voted against Sofia being opened to the Methodist Mission under any conditions whatever, twelve voted for its being opened to them unconditionally, and twenty voted for its being opened to them only on the condition that they would, like ourselves, discard the sectarian name, and call their church & work simply "evangelical."

I need not go into the "pros" & "cons" of what was said. In a word, the feeling shown towards the Methodists was wholly friendly & brotherly, but regret was expressed that they put in the foreground their distinctive name & methods, & insist so strongly on them. It was said with almost passionate earnestness that Bulgaria cannot understand the differences between the Protestant bodies, and wishes none of them. It wishes to know only the one common evangelical work. It was pointed out that we & our churches are nowhere known as Congregationalist, but simply as Evangelical; and the feeling was expressed that it would be most harmful if the Methodists were to do otherwise.

Of course, it was pointed out in reply that in their own field they are already known as Methodists, & that the fact of there being two different missions at work in Bulgaria has long been known, so that it would hardly seem that more harm could come from their name appearing in Sofia, — on the contrary, it would give an opportunity, through brotherly coöperation, to show the essential unity between us in spite of outward differences. But that argument proved weaker than the strong feeling against the sectarian name.

Of course you will understand, as the Conference did, that this is nothing more than the expression of its views, to have such weight with you as seems fit.

Yours very sincerely,
Robt. Thomson.

Corresp. Rel.
Nov. 1-1906.

Rec'd DEC 31 1906
Ans'd JAN 10 1906

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Samokov, Bulgaria.
15th December, 1906.

My dear Dr Barton,

I know that Rev. C. F. Morse, of St. Johnsbury, Vt., an early member of this Mission, & compiler of the first & hitherto only English-Bulgarian Dictionary, has corresponded with you about the larger dictionary which he has been led to prepare by the great need for it & the present extraordinary demand in Bulgaria & Macedonia for English. You know that he makes a gift of the work to the Mission, though it has cost him years of labour & some expense. Now he wishes me to print it on our Mission press here. Like everybody else, he admires the work turned out by us with our new type & our new press. But I have to-day replied to him that with our present equipment I could not do the work. I also promised him, however, that I would write by the same post & state the case to you. Now I am not going back one bit on what I wrote to you after the Rockefeller gift put us in the possession of new type & a larger stock of it. For all ordinary work that we are likely to do, that suffices us. But to print this Dictionary would need a much larger stock (1) of English type, (2) of heavy-faced type, & (3) of capitals than we usually need. Yet I think it very desirable that Mr Morse's Dictionary should be printed by us. Because, if not, I fear there is no likelihood of funds being found for its being

REC'D DEC 31 1906
ANS'D JAN 1 0 1906

printed elsewhere. Besides, as far as present indications go, we shall not have on hand any other big work next year, and so should be able to take up the Dictionary nicely.

Accordingly I write to ask whether there is any of the Rockefeller gift still left over, or any other fund on which you could draw, or any one from whom you could ask, so that, if my application itself meets with your approval, you could give us enough to buy the extra type needed for this work. If you say that there are funds that could be drawn upon, & that my application meets your approval, I would then set the case before the Mission, make out the estimate, & write to you more fully as soon as possible. I trust you may be able to give me some encouragement.

The present demand for English here is extraordinary. My "Method for Learning English" is selling splendidly, and bringing us in an income that has proved most welcome help. If we had the time & the means, we might go in very profitably, with advantage to our own & many other schools in the country, for preparing not only the "Method" & the Dictionary, but also Phrase-books & Readers. There is a great demand for all; and all would come in useful in our work.

Believe me, Yours very sincerely,
Robt. Thomson.

Rev. Robt. Thomson
Dec. 10-1906.

Samokov, Bulgaria.
24th January, 1907.

FEB 7 1907

My dear Dr Strong,

Many thanks for your letter of the 9th, just received. I shall not reply to it at length at present, as the subject has enlarged in my mind since I wrote to Dr Barton five weeks ago. The enormous duty that Bulgaria now imposes on foreign-printed books adds so seriously to the expenses of the two Bible Societies (British & Foreign and American) working in the country, that, with this added to their difficulty with the press-censorship in Turkey, & other things, they are beginning to enquire if their publications could not be printed in the country. This has led me to address to the agents of both these Societies a letter of enquiry, asking to be informed what are the conditions of contract they impose on printers of their Scriptures, that I might see whether, aside from the question of funds, we could comply with them. I have also asked them to give me in general terms their opinion, how the idea strikes them that we here should try to equip ourselves for doing their work.

If their answers are such as to encourage me, I think of laying the matter before our Annual Meeting in spring; & of course many of the details to which you refer would need to be worked out & presented to the Meeting so as to make the matter intelligible. I am well aware of the difficulty of raising funds, & am by no means sanguine. All

that I feel is that, if there are no other difficulties in the way, it would be a desirable thing in every way that we should be able to do the work for the Bible Societies.

The stock of type & other plant needed would undoubtedly be capable of being used on other matters when we were not working for the Societies or the Mission; and I see no reason why we should not on a smaller scale, be as successful as the Beirut Mission-press has been.

Had you been a Foreign Secretary here you would have known that our printing-establishment here was started on no other purpose than to provide work for our students. That has been its aim all through. To-day, except the two superintendents of departments, all that work here, to the number of 25, are our students. We have never had outside hands. And next year it is very likely that one of the departmental superintendents will also be a student.

We have noted in the last "Heralds" the changes that have taken place in the Rooms. I trust you will find the work run smoothly. You may be sure that, in this Mission at least, your correspondence with us, your sympathy, your views will be welcomed. We feel we have in you an old friend.

I write in the midst of cold so intense that the oldest memory here does not parallel it. The fire in my room cannot keep my fingers from shivering, so that my writing is little else than scratching.

Yours very sincerely, Robt. Thomson.

Sam'l Fav. Rick Feb. 7 '94.

MAR 4 1907

Samokov, Bulgaria.
16th February, 1907.

My dear Dr Strong,

I don't know who is the editor, or who are those responsible for the information that is printed from year to year in the Board's Almanac. So will you allow me to send this correction to you, & ask you to turn the attention of the proper person to it? I refer to the item in the list of the Board's High Schools & Colleges, where my name is given as Director of our Collegiate & Theological Institute here. I ceased to be Director as long ago as in the summer of 1904. I was not altogether surprised when my name still appeared in the Almanac for 1905, thinking that the information might have been too late in reaching you. But I was very much surprised when it remained uncorrected in the Almanac for 1906, — so much surprised that I did not think it necessary to write to correct the error, feeling sure that at least Dr Barton would notice it, or some one call attention to it. But now that the error is repeated in the 1907 Almanac I feel that I must do what I can to have things put right. Could not a * note be appended to the name of my nephew, Rev. L. F. Ostrander, who is the Director, saying that he has

been such since 1904? I wish something of the sort could be done. Does not this suggest that there may be need to have the tables of information — such as are not new every year — revised regularly, to make sure that they are up to date?

Still less, I suppose, would it be in your line to see to the correction of a mistake in the Congregational Year Book. I found the mistake when the book was sent me (free, for the first time) in 1905, & wrote at once to correct it, addressing my note to the editor. But the mistake has reappeared in the book sent me in 1906, & will likely be perpetuated — unless the heavens fall. The mistake is that in that Book I have the honour to appear as a Congregational minister, whereas the truth is that I have the higher honour to be one of the proofs of the Board's broad-minded liberality, being a minister of another denomination, and even of another nationality. As a good Scotsman, I am a Presbyterian.

Believe me, with kindest regards,
Yours very sincerely,
Robt. Thomson.

Stamford, Feb. 16. 07.

Missionary Life and Work in Bulgaria, as I see it.

Please read first what I have added at the end of this article. R. Thomson.

Missionary life as I see it here almost makes me shrink from comparing it with the idea that most people have of the sacrifices and hardships which every missionary endures who leaves his country to work for Christ in a foreign land. Sacrifices and hardships there are almost none, — none at least which are not felt quite as much, possibly more, by many a home-missionary working in some remote part of the country.

We have a beautiful country to live in, and a fine climate, and enjoy every day in these things blessings which many go far to search and pay much to find. Houses and living are as good as any one could wish. In the outward things of civilization the country is advancing rapidly; and only a few remaining primitivenesses here and there remind us that we are not at home. If we wish occasional relaxations and recreations, we can easily get most of what any one could reasonably ask for. The country is absolutely safe: we feel as secure as though we were in the home-land. It is true, we are far from relatives and friends; yet the rapidity and regularity of the post does much to reduce that trial to a minimum; and, after a very short time, one's heart gets to be so given to one's work, and one so soon learns to love and admire this people, that the cravings of this part of one's nature cease to assert themselves with enough force to spoil us for work. Newspapers and books enable us to keep abreast of the thinking and the doing of the age almost as easily here as anywhere. And at least for those who live in a large station such as this (Samokov), where much of the important work of the Mission is centred, one of the greater deprivations and two of the lesser ones, which are probably much felt by missionaries in some other places, are pretty fully made up to us. The greater deprivation is the chance to hear occasionally a good sermon, instead of being always preaching ourselves. Here, where there are two Bulgarians and four missionaries who preach in turn, each gets as much help to spiritual profit as he can make use of. The lesser deprivations are the hearing of instructive lectures and of good concerts. Here, from the large body of teachers and scholars, there is enough to draw upon to supply that lack to a very great degree.

Then, it is a delight to live in the midst of a young, progressive nation, with high aspirations, and with a great future (as I believe) before

it, and to watch how things go, and especially when the nation has so many good points to commend it as this one has. If not the Government, if not the Church, the nation is freedom-loving and liberal. It is open-minded and courteous, and if treated with frankness and courtesy responds as readily, as heartily, and as pleasantly as any people anywhere could. It is a nation that is making its way, has its own ideas and ideals, but does not despise light and lessons, experience and wisdom from other quarters. It is a nation that appeals powerfully to one's heart and sympathies, because it came to its political birth weighted down by the traditions of centuries of Turkish oppression and misrule and by the numerous evils in the life of the people to which that oppression gave rise. One learns to have a quick and profound sympathy for a generation that has fallen heir to mistaken ways of looking at and of doing things, and which must learn to correct much in itself before it can be possible for it to attain those things on which it has set its heart. It is a nation with fine abilities, with strongly democratic leanings, and with a certain fine simplicity about it that wins the heart and commands respect. And it is a nation to love, and which produces as many individuals of noble abilities and character, as worthy of friendship and affection, as any anywhere, and, where the grace of God has entered the heart, as beautiful specimens of the Christian lady and gentleman, in heart and in manners, in word and in deed, as any land could produce.

So much for the missionary life; and the telling of this tells almost of itself what the character of the missionary work is. Here we have none of the conditions and problems to meet which have to be met in many a mission field. We have none of the wild savagery of the Pacific Islanders, none of the degradation and superstition of the Tribes of Africa, none of the religious and racial fanaticism of the Mohammedans, none of the moral ...acy of the Hindu, none of the superior self-complacency of the Chinaman. We have not even the difference of colour or of general appearance (in person or dress, except the dress of the villagers) to remind us that we are not working amongst our own people. Difference of language is the chief reminder, together with the marriage and funeral processions through the streets, an occasional unobtrusive religious ceremony publicly performed, and a multiplicity of festival holidays, but all connected with that sign of the cross and that ringing of church-bells which speak of a land that professes allegiance to Christ and His doctrine.

What then is our work? I said before that it is a delight to live in the midst of this young, progressive nation, and watch how things go. Our

work is, not merely to watch how things go, but to do all in our power to help them to go rightly and well from the Christian point of view. With what we believe to be erroneous and hurtful in the way that Christianity is held and taught (so far as it is taught) in the country we take little or nothing to do. We believe that error is best corrected not directly by attack but indirectly by the preaching of the truth. But what affords us unlimited scope for work is that the nation, though under the banner of Christendom, knows little or nothing of Christian truth and Christian living. Its church — perhaps more through the force of adverse circumstances than anything else — has for centuries confined its religious work (its political work has been undeniably valuable) to the performance of outward ceremonial, and that in a language unintelligible to the people: it has practically resigned its teaching work. And now, when on the heels of political liberty has followed a tide of infidelity, socialism, moral impurity, political corruption, etc., the church finds itself helpless to withstand these things and indifferent to some of them, as also to drunkenness, gambling, and so on. Here is our work, — to step in [illegible] breach [illegible] by our three great agencies of preaching, teaching, an[illegible]ting, to do that for the nation (so far as our resources permit) wh[illegible] own church ought to do but which for the present it cannot do.

To all intents and purposes our Mission and that of the [illegible] Methodists in the north, together with the two great Bible Societies, are the [illegible]ne agency striving to instil living Christian principle into the home life, [illegible] the social life, the national life of this people. We alone are trying to give [illegible]m the one foundation on which to build. Surely a great enough task [illegible] a handful of workers! Surely enough to inspire a life-time of effort!

And what of success? Compared with many other Missi[illegible]ns, — small and slow. But the very circumstances under which we labour [illegible] almost lead us to expect that. But the success is great enough and fast e[illegible]nough to make discouragement and unbelief impossible. God has done grea[illegible] things for Bulgaria; and He is not the one to leave His work half fi[illegible]shed, or to give the people a little taste and then let them starve. No [illegible] Bulgaria is to be for God. She is for God now in His anticipation [illegible] future.

Robt. Th[illegible]mson.

Samokov, Bulgaria.
26th March, 1907.

See next page.

Apr. 19-1907

Dear Friends of the Orleans Co. Conference,

I have to ask your kind forbearance on this occasion. I have been chosen this year a delegate to the Annual Meeting of our Mission, which is to meet on the 2nd day, at Monastir, Macedonia. I have to start a week from to-morrow, + shall probably be absent three weeks. This necessitates my crowding into these present days a great amount of extra work; and the result is that I find it a physical impossibility to prepare anything fresh for you, though I earnestly desire to do so. I am very tired, almost exhausted, — I assure you, from nothing but steady keeping at my work here. It would be too late to write anything on my return from Monastir. So please be kind enough on this occasion to accept the copy that I send herewith of an article that I recently wrote at the request of Dr. Kinigsbury, formerly one of my colleagues here, but now a pastor in California. I realize that the article is not just exactly what you want; but I hope that, under the circumstances, you will accept it for this time.

With unchanging interest in the cause that binds us together, and affection for you all,

I am,

Yours most sincerely,

(+ your foreign Pastor,)

Robt. Thomson.

19th April, 1907.

Rec'd OCT 7 1907

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Samokov, Bulgaria.
21st September, 1907.

My dear Dr Barton,

I welcome you back from your long absence. What we have read and heard of your doings has been interesting and instructive. All the same, I venture to take the ground that our work in this rather neglected Mission is not one whit less important in its own proportion; and so I now send you the first of two or three letters in which I shall turn your attention to some things that specially interest me.

In this letter I shall confine myself to the subject of Bible revision. I wish to remind you that the Annual Meeting of our Mission (held last May in Monastir) passed the following resolution with only one dissentient vote, viz., "We consider that the time has come for a linguistic revision of our present Bulgarian Bible; and we approve of its being undertaken as soon as satisfactory arrangements can be made." The vote

Thomson
Sept 21 1907
Robert
Samokov

was not the result of the very slightest "lobbying" — which is a thing I hate and despise. Neither was it rushed. It came after a two days' exhaustive debate — in committee and in "the whole," and after Dr Marsh, the dissenting member, had presented every possible argument, represented every conceivable unfortunate possibility, and misrepresented the views of all the other members. (I do not hesitate to write this last phrase, for I charged Dr Marsh with it openly in the meeting.)

I do not deny that I have — openly and unconcealedly — worked and pressed for this revision for the last ten years nearly. But I do deny that men like Dr House, Dr Huscell, and the rest would pass such a vote simply to please me or to get rid of the subject. On the contrary, the brethren declared in open meeting that they were now <u>convinced</u>.

Now I feel that it is my duty to follow up this vote as earnestly as possible. And I warn you, Dr Barton, that I shall be as persistent with you as I have been here, till, as I hope, I get this thing. For the resolution, while pledging the mission, brings us no nearer the actuality till the necessary "satisfactory arrangements" have been made. It is for these latter that I must press.

I am sure that to a man like you I do not need to argue the importance to every Mission of its Bible. I do not need to remind you how Bible translation and revision is counted perhaps the most useful and lasting and honourable work with which the name of any mission can be identified. Well, as a deduction from these considerations and the now admitted need of revision in our field, I urge strongly the view that to say that we men and funds cannot be spared for the revision because other work demands our attention is just to say that work of the very first importance is to be crowded out by work of comparatively secondary importance. Is that right?

And you will forgive me if I repeat an argument that Dr House used, which I would not in modesty refer to, only my interest in the work bids modesty come to the front for once. Dr House said that the revision ought to be undertaken, and at once, because I am the only member of the Mission now left competent to handle the matter, and the only one that specially interests himself in it.

Well, if the work were undertaken, it would need to be by a committee of at least five, of whom two would be myself and probably Mr Baird, a third would be

Dr Tomoff of the Methodist Mission, and the other two would be competent Bulgarians. Now we two missi aries would need to give at least half our time to h work. That means that, to set us free, you would ne to give us here either another missionary (aside fro those asked for on other considerations by our Meetin or else funds for Bulgarian workers to take up wha we lay down.

Then, as to the way in which in such circum stances the Missions (ours + that of the Methodists) wo share with the Bible Societies all the expense of th work (chiefly the salaries of the committee of revisers) am ignorant. But there must be many precedents guide. I have written to the Agent in Constantinop of the British + Foreign Bible Society (whose pro erty the Bulgarian Bible is); and I have his assen to my proposal that first of all his Society + ou Missions should agree to consent to <u>the principles</u> which the revision would be carried out. To this end, the London Secretaries, if that Society agrees, w open correspondence with you. Then, if you both, o rather all, agree to the principles, we would go int details and furnish you careful estimates; and after that you could see what might be done.

Now, dear Dr Barton, it is no lobbying if I
o my utmost to secure your coöperation in bring-
ig about what we desire, because this is a Mission
ote. But as it belongs specially to my department,
d, as Dr House said, I am importunately almost
e only one that is specially interested in the mat-
r (and that just because I know more about it),
is natural that I should try to follow up what
s been done and carry it on to some practical re-
it. I know it seems like hoping against hope to
ect the gift of another missionary or his equi-
ent, because nothing has yet come of the promise
two new missionaries for our field made three years
o, and because the Mission asked for five or six
men on other considerations. All the same, I
it because the work needs it. If this demand is
ored, the Bulgarian Bible will in another genera-
ion be away behind the spoken language. Are Bi-
interests here not to benefit by the enthusiasm and
ity of the Laymen's Movement, the Students' Volun-
Movement, and the many other rallies of the past
rs that have kept us with our mouths open expect-
the promised fruitage to drop in, — though all
vain so far.?

Do not imagine that I urge this because I have lost interest in other work, and wish a change. Nothing could be further from the truth. My colleagues here and friends elsewhere know that my interest in preaching, in teaching, & in the preparation of literature has grown steadily, and has been at its highest during the last year and a half. No; it is not that. It is simply my feeling that I do not wish the Bulgarian Bible to fall out of touch with the living speech of the people, and that that is a matter of greater importance than anything else that I can do.

The work will be a lengthy one: it will take several years. But no matter how long it is put off, it will never become less lengthy. And I admit that there will be no finality in the revision. In what <u>living</u> language can there be finality of form? But a revision now is needed to prevent the gap between the Bible and the spoken language becoming unbridgeably great.

Please let me hear from you about this. But do think more than twice or thrice before writing in a discouraging way, or, what would be worse, in pleasing generalities — and nothing more. Believe me,

Yours most sincerely,
Robt. Thomson.

Rec'd NOV 18 1907

Samokov, Bulgaria.
1st November, 1907.

My dear Dr Barton,

I was very vexed on reading your letter to me of the 18th October to find that mine to you of the 21st September had, apparently, grieved you somewhat. My constant aim is to grieve no one, if I can help it; and least of all would I wish to grieve you, whom I count as a good personal friend as well as a great support of the Board's work. In so far as I am to blame for the grieving of you, I express my sincere regret and ask your forgiveness; but I think that partly you have misunderstood me.

I almost think that the first point in your letter must have been already answered. You express regret that I felt it necessary to argue at such length in favour of Bible revision, when you have always believed just as I do. Well, when I wrote you, I supposed that Dr Marsh's — I must say <u>distorted</u> — protest was already in your hands. It seems it was not. But I know that you will have received it long before this reaches you. After what he wrote, are you surprised that I was at

some pains to defend the Mission's position? I think you will understand my letter now. I shall not reply to any of Dr Marsh's personalities. If you wish any further elucidation of facts, I am ready to answer.

Then, as to my asking you not to write in a discouraging way as to this Bible revision, — Dr Barton, have you never known one person, when pleading for something with another, to say — "Now don't say <u>No</u> to me"? That was all I meant. I only meant that phrase as a strong appeal for the granting of what we asked for. Of course facts must be faced; and I am as ready to face them as any one. And if you must discourage us for a time in this matter, I shall ask for grace to do the right thing just like the rest of us and as in other matters.

As to the phrase "pleasing generalities," I admit it was not happy. I withdraw it. Yet what I was thinking of was nothing worse than this, that you, in the kindness of your heart, always try to put things just as gently as it is possible to put them. And I was hoping that you would not think I would be satisfied with a more or less general assurance of interest, and promise that as soon as possible reinforcements would be sent, but that I would wish something as definite as possible. But my phrase was unhappy, and I

regret it. What you have written is surely definite & positive enough. I thank you for it. I sincerely hope that the British & Foreign Bible Society will be able to arrange terms with you about the matter.

The discouraging consideration with which you close has not been absent from my mind. If I am not mistaken, I referred to it in my letter. But it is not quite so bad as appears at first sight. For Mr Baird appears to be the only other of us missionaries who would be engaged in the Bible revision; and as he takes furlough next summer, we could not begin till he returns in the fall of 1909. If only we could get new men who by that time would be able to take up such part of the work as we should have to lay down, then all would be well.

I trust we now understand each other.

I should have stopped here; but your letter to Mr Ostrander as Mission Secretary contains something to which I wish to refer. It was I who spoke to Mr Hicks when he was here about the insufficient representation of this Mission in the Board's Publications. I distinctly disclaimed anything like charging anyone with intentionally doing us injustice. And I repeat to you, what I said to Mr Hicks, that I have a

conscience clear of personal jealousy as to any of my letters. My jealousy is for our work.

Now you will pardon me, and I trust I may be able to express myself without offence, for such is my sincere desire, — but, in spite of what you say so emphatically in your letter to Mr Ostrander, laying on us the blame if the "Herald" does not contain much from our Mission, I do not think that the facts bear out this charge. (I make a reservation lower down.) From the two Salonica brethren letters are printed fairly often. But when has there been anything from Dr or Mr Parke, Dr Haskell, Dr Marsh, Mr Baird, or myself? While from Mr Ostrander and Mr Holway only just a very little. Now, speaking for myself, I know that, before your day as Secretary, I time and again wrote letters from which I expected to see extracts in the "Herald;" but never once did they appear. I confess I became discouraged, and practically gave up writing. But since my connection with the Orleans Co. churches in Vermont I have written regularly twice a year to them, and these letters have latterly been sent through the Rooms at Boston; yet not once has there been anything taken from them for the "Herald."

More than this. See what an impression must have been created by the communication published in the "Herald" from Drs Creegan and Hitchcock, — of course unintentionally on their part. I write from memory; but the entire visit to our Mission was dismissed in a paragraph of ten lines, in which a big mistake occurred, and no one unacquainted with the place would suppose that they were reporting on a visit to our Mission; while on Kintak alone, just after, two or three pages were expended. The Austrian and Spanish Missions are treated in the same way. I cannot but think that readers would conclude from that that there was nothing to say about these Missions.

I said I would make a reservation. It is possible that the letters I write to the Vermont churches are considered too "family-letter" in style (I adopt that style intentionally towards them), and that for the "Herald" you expect something more of the "article" style. If so, will you not be kind enough to tell me so frankly; and I shall try to correct that difficulty.

Last night, as we were talking over your letter, some one suggested that the "Herald" desired matter only of one type, — striking incident or

great success. I can scarcely believe that that is so. So long as you have sufficient trust in us to leave us to work a Mission, I should think you would not wish to impose on us what kind of news we must write for publication. I repeat, I can't believe it. But I mention what was said, to show that it is not I alone who observe the infrequency with which anything from us is published.

We do not wonder, and are not jealous, that the work in great fields such as India, China, and Japan should appeal more to the Board's constituency than that in ours. But, granted our different conditions, we have as great problems to deal with as these other Missions have; and we only wish that our work should not be lost sight of.

However, aside from what I have prepared for the January "Herald" at Dr Strong's request, I have undertaken to prepare another special article on Bulgaria for a later number; and if I can do more to help in that line I shall try my best, though it seems like adding "the last straw."

I enclose my half-yearly letter to the Vermont Churches. Will you please be kind enough to hand it over to those who will hectograph it or parts of it & then forward it to your brother.

With cordial regards,

Yours most sincerely, Robt. Thomson.

Samokov, Bul. Nov. 1-1904.

NOV 18 1907

To the Congregational Churches
of the
Orleans County Conference, Vermont,
U. S. A.

Nov. 1907

My dear Friends,

A good deal has happened during the six months since I wrote my last letter to you.

Very soon after that letter was dispatched, the Annual Meeting of our Mission was held in Macedonia. Amongst the various important things that we did, one specially interested me. The Mission resolved that as soon as suitable arrangements could be made we must undertake a revision of our Bulgarian Bible. This is something that I have been advocating for years; and I am very glad that the thing is now in sight. Under present circumstances it is not likely that suitable arrangements can be arrived at in less than two or three years yet; but if we have this in view in our plans, I trust that in due time we shall see the revision accomplished.

Then, a month or six weeks later, came the Commencements of our schools here. Seven were graduated from the Girls' School — all very promising, and nearly all of them are now pursuing higher studies, or intend to do so. From the Collegiate and Theological Institute we graduated one in the Collegiate Course, while other two completed the course, but could not receive their diplomas till later. But the interest centered in the Theological Department, in which we do not have a class every year, but only when there are students for it. This year we graduated five. In spirit and earnestness they were all such

as we can expect, with God's blessing, to make useful workers. Mentally, three of them were above the average and one a fair average, while the fifth could do admirable work amongst villagers. By next summer I hope to see four, and possibly five, of them at work. They could as a very welcome reinforcement to the ranks.

We do not expect to graduate a class from either of our schools in 1908, as we are in the process of assimilating our programme to that of the National Gymnasia, and have reached the point where our sixth classes must continue on into a seventh year. But the fact that we are doing this is already telling on the public. Our numbers are increasing. Both schools are fuller than ever before. And we have very little doubt that, once we get the Government recognition which we hope for, our numbers will be still more very greatly increased. But that will be a testing time for the friends of the Mission in America. If we are to have larger numbers, both buildings will need to be enlarged and better equipped, while the working expenses will be much larger. Substantial gifts for building purposes and for the endowment that we have been seeking for so long will be eagerly looked for. Are any of you, dear friends, going to help us?

During the summer we had an interesting special Conference at a place called Lüdgeny, a day's journey east of this town. We went there expecting to ordain one of our younger workers; but unfortunately he had so completely failed to prepare himself for the examination that we could not lay hands on him, although we highly appreciate his spirit and devotion in the work. This is not the first time such a thing has happened in the history of the Mission, and it is not a bad thing that both our friends and our opponents should know that we are not ready to

y hands on anyone and everyone for this work. However, e examination itself was instructive and interesting. And ides it, we organized a church there, had Sunday and week- y services, celebrated a marriage, and had a lecture, all of hich were good occasions for bringing out evangelical prin- ples. A very good impression was made in the place. Meet- gs had been held to see what could be done to oppose us illy; but it was realized that nothing could be done; and eyone, even the priests who had organized these meetings, ated us very respectfully.

We are now looking forward to the holding of our gular Autumn Conference next week, at the village of osteretz, not far east of us. We hope that our candidates ordination will come onward again on examination. And, mongst other things we have planned for a free & full consul- tion about certain things which seem to hinder candidates om offering for the work as freely as we have hoped for. We nestly pray that light and guidance on the subject may be iven us.

We are now well and very hopefully started on the inter's work, with sermons, lectures, meetings of all kinds, d the regular teaching. But looming above all is the lebration of the jubilee of the mission-work (our own, and t of the Methodists) in Bulgaria, which is now being hared for. Strictly speaking the jubilee falls just about e present time; but, for the sake of economy, we are planning celebrate it, along with the Methodists, in Sofia the capital, ext summer, at the same time when the triennial Summer- hool will meet there. A very happy suggestion was made, at the best way to celebrate the jubilee would be that as any of our churches as possible should become self- upporting. And I am glad to say that we know of two hat hope to reach that platform, while some others will ry. The result will be good all round.

I wonder if any of the tens of thousands of Bulgarians and Macedonians who are passing in to America these months ever find their way in your direction. If they should, I am sure you will give them a kind reception for Christ's sake and for ours. I am told that, with few exceptions, it is the best of the young men who are going. Join us in the prayers we offer that in their distant new home they may come under influences that will open their hearts to the gospel. Here, one result of this emigration is a great demand for English. It would be a good thing if funds could be had to complete and print the Dictionary which Rev. C. F. Morse of St. Johnsbury has prepared and presented as a free gift to our Mission.

The reports of the Bible Societies working in this land reveal an interesting state of things which we would not have suspected. Fanaticism our work is not growing rapidly, yet these Societies report sales of Scriptures constantly rapidly increasing. I have again been asked to put a new edition of the New Testament through the press because of the astonishing fact that the previous edition of 10,000 copies (sold at 8½ cents) was disposed of in five months! How much that means! There is undoubtedly a great spiritual preparation going on among this people which is quite outside of our work, though unquestionably it is an indirect result of our work. So also is the plan of the Holy Synod to translate the Bible from Russian into Bulgarian, and to give it to the people. I repeat what I have so often said to you before, that I am as far as possible from being discouraged, though God's plan for the bringing in of this nation seems at present to be somewhat different from our plan. My great desire is to see just what are the lines upon which He seems to be working, and then, no matter at what cost, to work along with Him.

In my special department we are busy as ever. The new edition of the Bible has reached into the Gospel

of John. As above stated, another edition of the New Testament is going through. These are being printed in Constantinople. Then here we are nearing the completion of the new edition of our Hymn & Tune Book. The Bulgarian Evangelical Society has given us a large list of leaflets to print. And then we shall print a good many tracts of our own. During 1908 we also hope to bring out an English Phrase-Book, as a supplement to the Method for Learning English, which is selling so well.

My wife's health is, I am happy to say, rather improving of late, and she has been able to take part a little more than previously in the work of the Station. But she is still far from strong. My own general health is good; but for the past four weeks I have been having chills & fever almost every day, — a very unusual thing with me. Fortunately, the trouble, though enough to make me pretty uncomfortable, is not enough to keep me from work. My oldest daughter is now one of the regular teachers in our Girls' School. She and the rest of us are all very well.

It would be a pleasure to me to hear from some of you occasionally; though I must admit that I can do very little in the way of personal correspondence in addition to these general letters.

With very cordial regards from my wife and children and myself to all of you,

I am,

Your Missionary Pastor,

and your sincere friend and brother,

Robt. Thomson.

Letter to George Crocker

Orleans Co. Conference - Vermont

Robert Thomson

Samokov, Bul. Nov. 1907

To be [illegible]

Mrs Thomson

1 Cabinet

$1 [illegible]

FEB 26 1908

316

Samokov, Bulgaria.
13th February, 1908.

My dear Dr Barton,

I regret to say that my wife's health is, in some respects, becoming steadily poorer. Not that her illnesses are very severe, but they are constant and wearing and greatly interfere with her ability to look after things in the home.

This is the chief reason why, after considering the matter for a long time, we have reached the decision that we must send Duncan, our youngest child, to a boarding-school. My wife cannot look after him in all the little matters of home care and training as he ought to be looked after. I, besides not being his mother, am all day long & generally all the evening also in my office here at work. Our oldest daughter is fully occupied as a teacher in our Girls' Boarding School here; and our second daughter is not naturally fitted to take the necessary supervision. So, though he is

Letter to Concerning Duncan

doing exceedingly well in his studies in our C. & I. I. here, we feel that it would be ruinous to the boy to let him be longer without that other kind of training which is just as necessary as learning.

We have decided to send him to the Boys' Institute at Wilhelmsdorf, Württemberg, Germany, where Jamie Haskell is. Our youngest daughter is in the Girls' Institute there, and has done well in her studies, besides being enabled there to make "the great decision" for Christ.

The Director prefers to receive new pupils at Easter which falls on the 17th April this year. So I write to ask that, as usual, and as we have been doing with Ina these last 18 months, I may then be granted half-yearly, the special allowance for Duncan as a child at school away from home, it being understood that his percentage on my salary ceases when the other begins. Also, I ask for the necessary travelling expenses to send him there.

(b. Hong July 5-1895)

Trusting to have an early & favourable reply, I am, with cordial regards,

Yours very sincerely,

Robt. Thomson.

Namkoo (Paul)

Feb 12-1898

RECEIVED 296
C. H PATTON
MAY 15 1908
Copies sent out May 17

To the Churches of
The Orleans County Congregational Conference,
Vt., U. S. A.

Samokov, Bulgaria.
1st May, 1908.

Dear Friends,

The month of June is now always connected in my mind with your County Conference; and May brings me the reminder that it is my privilege to write you something that may help "to stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance."

I wish that it were possible to put off this letter for another week so that I might report to you the doings of our Annual Meeting which has just been sitting at Philippopolis. Some very important questions were to be discussed, of which one or two were specially connected with my peculiar charge — the Publication Department. But I was not a delegate this year, so must remain in ignorance till my colleagues return. I hope to report to you three months hence; for Mr Baird, who has kindly for the last two years written you two out of the four yearly letters, is about to leave for America on furlough, and I must do my best to maintain this correspondence without his help.

We have as usual been hard at work in this Printing Establishment since I last wrote. This year, having no other pressing work to put through, we have been free to take up the list of tracts that for some time have been waiting to be printed. The

distribution of tracts in our field has been remarkably developed within the last year or two, especially since our venerable Dr Clarke, who is now unable for any of the heavier kinds of work, has devoted himself particularly to this since his removal to Sofia — the capital. Of course one always has the feeling that there must ~~always~~ be a good deal of waste, waste in more ways than one, in connection with indiscriminate and lavish tract-distribution; yet, in view of the good that undoubtedly is done by it, it is difficult to see how the waste can be avoided if only those who distribute are very judicious & very prayerful. I believe this our missionaries and colporteurs' answer to this requirement; and so, one can look on the growth of this work in our midst with considerable satisfaction. During 1907 I sent out tracts from here to the amount of almost 40,000, which is our largest figure yet on record. But this year promises to exceed it. Well, it is almost exclusively tracts that we are printing now — chiefly narrative tracts, with a picture on them; and by the time that our school year closes two months hence we shall have printed at least 20 new tracts, in addition to new editions of old ones, in editions of from 3000 to 5000 each.

There are other things that we should like to print but unfortunately we have to admit that at present Bulgarians do not care to pay more than a very trifling sum for anything religious to read, so our Committee has not thought best to sanction these things. But if private funds could be had for the purpose, I could print them. The two that seem to me most desirable are (1) a series of lectures that have been prepared on "The Bible & Human Rights," "The Bible & Human Character," & "The Bible and the Civil Authority." That would constitute a pamphlet or booklet. The other (2) would be larger. It is

Bunyan's "Holy War," which I am translating and which I read to the boys of the Institute at morning prayers when it is my turn to lead them. The "Pilgrim's Progress" has long been published; but I should like to see this companion volume out also. Could you help us with these?

I have asked for authorization to prepare something on "Spiritualism," which unfortunately seems to be getting quite a hold in Bulgaria, and has been doing considerable damage in some of our evangelical churches. I do not think we shall in the meantime need to do anything about "Christian Science." It is not unknown here; but its effects so far have been very mild.

So, you see, there is plenty to do in this line of work. Besides that, I am still reading the proofs of the new edition of the Bible. We have finished 2nd Corinthians now, so shall soon be through. I am also putting through the press at Constantinople new editions of the New Testament & of Genesis. And that is the very hopeful thing in Bulgaria. In spite of the slowness of the people, as I said above, to buy ordinary religious literature, they seem more & more ready to buy the Bible; and every year of late the Bible Societies that work in this field report that their Bulgarian circulation has again made a record. When the Bible revision is executed, as the Mission has sanctioned, but which cannot be undertaken till there are additional missionaries to take the place of those who will work on the revision, and when the Holy Synod completes its translation of the Bible, I believe there will be an almost universal demand for the Scriptures amongst this people. I do not consider the unbelief of so many in the land as a very alarming thing. It is not like the unbelief in France or Germany, where people have known better. It is the unbelief of a people who have known nothing but superstition. When they get to understand the truth, I believe they will follow it.

This constitutes the main part of my more personal report. In addition, I have taught French to the two highest classes in the Institute, and, of course, taken my share of preaching, lecturing, leading meetings, and doing the general work of our Station.

I am glad to be able to tell you that still further spiritual interest was aroused in the Institute & the Girls' School about six weeks ago, when we had a visit from one of the Commissioners of the Salvation Army. His addresses were very home-coming; and I would hope that ten or a dozen of the young people were brought by them to a decision for Christ. My oldest son, too, who has a little farm on the outskirts of the town, was amongst the number.

His blessing of God is what we ever depend on most; yet other things are needed too. And unfortunately the lack of funds hampers us more & more seriously every year. There is not a department of the work that does not feel it keenly — the schools, the churches, the press, the colporteurs & Bible women — all. If you, dear friends, are doing your very best for the financial support of the work, then will you not join us in the prayer that God will give us more means?

Since Mr Baird wrote three months ago, our new missionaries the Kennedys have been permitted to go to their Station (Kortcha) in Albania. But now comes the news that the Turks, angry at having to give way on this point, have issued an order forbidding any of our missionaries in Macedonia to do touring. Of course the Turks sooner or later will have to give way on this also; but meantime it is vexing & prevents much useful work being done. But this is characteristic of the Turk. He never gives way: if he cannot oppose Christianity in one way he will try another, because he instinctively feels that, though we don't mix up in political affairs, the very spirit of evangelical Christianity is freedom. And he is right.

We are preparing to celebrate in the course of the summer, along with the Methodist Mission in Northern Bulgaria, the Jubilee of the missionary work in this country. I don't yet know whether it will be held early enough for me to report on three months hence.

You may be interested to hear the following. About two years ago one of our young Bulgarian pastors here, who had first studied here & then in America, married. But, feeling that he could not live on the pittance we could give him, he went again to America. He soon got a church to preach in. But last year the rush of Bulgarian immigrants into America was so great that various churches felt obliged to do something for them spiritually. Amongst others, the Presbyterian Church appointed this young pastor to be a missionary amongst his own people, & sent him to a place in Illinois where there are thousands of them. Not long after, he wrote and asked me for a supply of tracts; and I sent him a box with nearly 10,000 in it. So you see, through the good that we hope these tracts will do, you are getting back on to our own soil something of the help that you send us.

Personally, I am well & strong, and so are my children, three of whom are now at school in Germany. I wish I could give as good a report of my wife's health; but I am sorry to say that it is not good. She is not laid aside entirely, and is able for quite a lot of work in the house; but anything like seeing people, or going to meetings, or doing anything to try the head seems to prostrate her very easily.

Ever pray for us & for the work,

Yours very sincerely, Robt. Thomson.

MAY 25 1908

Samokov, Bulgaria.
12th May, 1908.

My dear Dr Barton,

Your letter of the 28th April reached me yesterday, and I shall gladly let you know how the matter of Mr Morse's Dictionary stands. I had hoped that the condition would be more settled by this time than it is; for, not being a delegate to our Annual Meeting this year, I sent to the Meeting a written Statement with my views, and with the draft of a proposed Motion to be voted on. But the Meeting felt that it desired more information, & wrote to me for it. I replied promptly; but, by what one must believe to be a Providential ordering, my letter was delayed in the post, and did not arrive till after the Meeting was over. So this matter still remains to be settled by Circular Vote (which I hope to start this week), and, after that, by permission from the Prudential Committee for what I desire, should the Vote be carried.

The matter goes back to last year's Annual Meeting. I there stated that I thought it desirable

that our Printing Department should be so equipped as to be able to undertake printing for the two Bible Societies, and to print Mr Morse's Dictionary & its companion half, and, if desirable other large works (I had in mind chiefly educational works). This suggestion was received, as most new suggestions are, with mild favour by some, with conservative doubt by others. One opposed it with violence, if not hostility. The result was that I was instructed to prepare in the course of the year a Statement setting forth my reasons for desiring the enlargement of our Printing Department, and asking permission, should the Statement commend itself to the Mission, to try to raise funds for the purpose.

The strong hostility that had been manifested in a certain direction made me feel that it was not desirable to try to settle the matter by Circular Vote; so I waited to present the case to this Annual Meeting. But, as you have learned above, the decision was not taken after all; and so it will still have to be settled by Circular Vote.

In brief my argument for enlarging the equipment of our Department, so as to enable it to print the above-mentioned large works, was (1) that, as our Mission output consists so largely of

tracts (free), which bring us in no income, & constitute financially nothing but a drain on us, it was desirable to get some work that would pay. [My "Method for Learning English, for example, has done splendidly: its sales helped well to lift us out of debt last year.] And (2) it was desirable that our press should be identified with the printing of the Bible & of sound educational works, specially towards learning English, such as this Dictionary.

To be perfectly honest, I have some doubts as to how the vote on my Motion would have gone, or, ~~would~~ might yet go, had it not been that I have the very unexpected & unsolicited offer of $1900 (well over half the entire sum needed) towards realizing my desire. That is, the money is not offered for general purposes. And if the Mission, & finally the Prudential Committee, does not sanction my seeking the rest of the money needed, so that we could print either the Bible or the Dictionary, this sum will not be available. I think that, rather than lose this offer, they may carry my Motion. That, of course, is not satisfactory; but as the offer of these $1900 was an absolute surprise, like a hand out of heaven, I try to feel that it may be a Providential indication that my proposition is desirable.

As to the Dictionary. The one who so violently opposes it does so on the ground that we should not

undertake educational works at all, but only religious. That is the old question that has been fought on so many mission fields. I had hoped that we were advanced enough not to need to stop over it; but it seems not. As to Mr Morse's work, of course it needs revision & editing, and a good deal has already been done to it in that line; but unquestionably it would be a useful dictionary. And now we can procure the companion half (English-Bulgarian) if the project is sanctioned & the money forthcoming. I think the chief difficulty in the minds of some is that we have already been forestalled. A dictionary (only Eng.-Bulg., however) will be out soon, with 17,000 words, and another smaller one too, I believe. Yet, on the other hand, the compilers of French & Bulgarian Dictionaries do not find that the fact of there being several dictionaries in the market is a disadvantage. They all sell well. And I think our prestige with the above-mentioned "Method" would help our dictionary through, — if we do not delay too long. Unquestionably, to my mind, the dictionary just about to appear, has many faults (I have seen advance proofs of it). We can do better; & we could sell our work (both parts) at the price of this single part. While I cannot guarantee, I think that the present remarkable demand for English makes it most likely that the sale of the Dictionary would be remunerative.

Yours very sincerely, Robt. Thomson.

Sandakan. Bul. May 12-1908.

JUN 10 1908

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Samokov, Bulgaria.
25th May, 1908.

My dear Dr Barton,

In response to your letter of enquiry I wrote you quite recently and at considerable length about the condition & the question as to the printing by us of Mr Morse's Bulgarian - English Dictionary.

Since I posted my letter, something has developed which makes me feel, not only that I should again communicate with you on the subject, but that I should ask your advice; for you will know better than I can how the matter might look in America.

A day or two after posting you my last I completed the Statement which I told you I was to prepare, and drew up the Circular Vote, and, after getting the votes of this Station, sent it on its round to the other Stations. Within a day or two after that, Dr Haskell sent up for us here to see a letter that he had just received from Mr Constantine Stephanoff, author of

the English-Bulgarian Dictionary which has just issued from the press. This Mr Stephanoff is lecturer on English Literature in the University of Sofia. He is a graduate of Yale ~~Harvard~~; and some of my colleagues speak of him as being a great favourite in America and having great influence there.

I have not before me his letter to Dr Haskell; but the gist of the essential part of it was this:— He says that he had learned from Mr Popoff of Sofia (who, with Mr Sechanoff, has prepared an English-Bulgarian Dictionary) that we were contemplating the printing with mission funds of the double dictionary — Mr Morse's half and the Popoff-Sechanoff half — and of selling it cheaply. He says he cannot believe this to be true. He could have no objection to these two pastors publishing their dictionary themselves and competing with him on equal terms. But he thinks it unfair that we should ruin his work by using Mission funds to sell ours cheaply; and, moreover, he feels sure that if the pious people in America who give their money for Mission-work knew that we were

using their money in any such way they would object strongly. Consequently he informed Dr Haskell that if the Mission really contemplated doing this, he would feel obliged to appeal to the Board and even to the American press. And of course you know what that means.

Mr Stephanoff's idea is wrong. The $1900 that were <u>offered</u> me (not <u>given</u>), were offered expressly that we might be able to print the Dictionary of the Bible. They are no part of the ordinary Missionary funds. The balance needed, if taken from the Rockefeller gift, would likewise not be ordinary Missionary funds, but money given for just what I asked for — the better equipment of the Department. If not taken from that gift, it would be contributed, in response to my appeal, specially for the printing of the Dictionary. The only Missionary funds that would be used for it would be that part of our Appropriations that would go to help out the wages of our student-workers in case the entire amount asked for was not contributed. <u>If it was all contributed, no part of the Mission funds would be used on the Dictionary at all.</u>

Now this gives :—

In favour of printing the Dictionary	Against printing the Dictionary.
Mr Morse's labour on his half, his gift of it to the Mission, and his desire to see it in print.	The opposition or doubtfulness of a number of us, some objecting to our doing such work at all as a Mission, and others considering that the appearance of Mr Stephanoff's dictionary renders ours unnecessary.
The need of the other half to supplement Mr Morse's half and to be bound with it.	The fact that, even if the Circular Vote should be carried in favour of printing it, some will have voted in favour (so I am told) simply in order not to lose the $1900 which would help to equip us for Bible-printing, &c., but against their feeling as to printing the Dictionary.
The fact that Mr Morse made his offer and we began contemplating this before Mr Stephanoff commenced work on his Dictionary. (?)	The fact that Mr Stephanoff will have had this start of us by a long time, & will take our market from us.
The fact that no Mission funds at all, or but a very small proportion at most, would be used for the work.	The fact that, as is believed, without its supplementary half, Mr Morse's half would scarcely be in demand at all.
The fact that it seems desirable to produce a Dictionary with fewer not ordinarily used words than Mr Stephanoff's.	The appearing to try to undersell Mr Stephanoff, and the feeling that he might raise on the subject.
The fact that, for this country, his price seems prohibitively high.	The fact that English is not yet in such demand as French, which forbids our drawing a conclusion from the sale of French dictionaries.
The fact that there is a demand for a Dictionary.	
The fact that the competing of several French dictionaries does not seem to hinder the sale of all of them.	
The fact that the $1900 was offered, not sought, (like a Providence) and will not be given but for this purpose.	

I have tried to put the matter fairly before you. Please advise me, and kindly do so as early as possible. Believe me,

Yours very sincerely,

Robt. Thomson.

Robert Morse
Saunders Coulee. May 25-1908.

JUL 8 1908

Ans. July 27 no Ly Pref.

Samokov, Bulgaria.
25th June, 1908.

My dear Dr Barton,

I have just received your letter of 12th June, with its enclosed copy of the protest by Mr Stephanoff & his publisher against our publishing an Anglo-Bulgarian Dictionary.

The result of our Circular Vote on the subject became known to us some ten days ago. It was decisively against our printing the Dictionary. I immediately notified Mr Stephanoff of this, and he expressed his great thankfulness.

This, so far, answers the question about which I asked your advice in a later letter. But only so far. And since there is still so much division of opinion amongst us, and I suppose Mr Stephanoff might still make trouble, I would beg you to give your advice on the remaining question, viz., Should we proceed to print Mr Morse's Bulgaro-English Dictionary?

Mr Stefkanoff has announced his intention of preparing the Bulgaro-English companion to his Angls-Bulgarian Dictionary, although he knows that Mr Morse presented us with such a work two years ago, & that we have had the project under consideration. But our Circular Vote, in spite of that, has by a large majority (indeed only 4 or 5 on the negative side) approved our printing Mr Morse's Dictionary, — I presume because of its being his work & a free gift to us, & possibly to help to make sure of our getting the $1900.

Now, in regard to this Bulgaro-English half, having in view the above, is your judgment also (to quote from your letter received to-day) that "if native firms will publish such books, it seems hardly wise to have a Mission Board enter into competition with them in the publication business"

I should be thankful for a speedy reply; because on your advice will depend my purchasing the type; and also, if you advise us not to publish it, I should need to notify Mr Morse, who has collected other 3000 words for his Dictionary, & is still collecting, that he need not go on any further, and I should need to ask him what he wishes done with the M.S. that we have here.

Most sincerely yours,

Robt. Thomson.

Samokov, Bul. June 25-1908

Rec'd JUL 19 1909

Samokov, Bulgaria: 6th July, 1909.

My dear Dr Barton, — Your letter of the 19th June reached me yesterday, for which many thanks. I write this line with reference to its concluding words. As you will doubtless learn later, when the Mission Secretary tells you all, our Mission has declined to stultify itself by reversing so soon, & without new evidence, the decision it took at Annual Meeting as to Stations in Albania. And it has intimated to the brethren there that they cannot thus lightly, of their own decision, reverse our decision, but that they must do as voted till some new authorization is given. As a matter of fact, we have laid on the Prudential Committee the responsibility of reversing our decision, if they think fit. We have been, like yourself, greatly surprised, both at the sudden change of front, and at the "lawless" way in which it was proposed to act. Yours, R. Thomson.

JUL 29 1908

Samokov, Bulgaria.
17th July, 1908.

My dear Dr Barton,

Your full & clear letter of the 18th June was duly received; and, in so far as it was a trumpet giving no uncertain sound, I was very thankful for it. It was decisive, & has cleared the air. After reading it to our Station & some other members of our Mission who are here at present, we felt that there was nothing for it but to give up entirely the plan of printing either half of the Dictionary. Accordingly, we have started a new Circular Vote, which will probably be carried unanimously, rescinding the previously expressed approval of the printing of the Bulgarian-English half (Mr Morse's half) of the Dictionary. The printing of the other half had already been vetoed.

For myself personally, however, I must say that, while I accept this decision in all loyalty, and consider the Dictionary scheme as dead, my judgment does not

go with the decision, — for two reasons.

First, I think that Mr Morse's three-years' labour & his kind gift deserved some consideration, and that we were not bound to respect Mr Stephanoff's protests, since he has begun work on the Bulgarian-English half in spite of his knowing that we had Mr Morse's M.S. on hand & were considering the advisability of publishing it. (You see, this is a different question from that of the English-Bulgarian half, which Mr Stephanoff has recently published.) I think that, in the circumstances, we might well have printed Mr Morse's half.

Second, It seems to me that the policy which the Board lays down is an admirable one when natives do as good work as missionaries could do, but not when their work is very inferior. I think that in this case there ~~were~~ are enough defects in Mr Stepanoff's work to warrant us printing something that would have been vastly better. You may reply that Mr Stephanoff's advertisements quote me, amongst others, as praising his

Dictionary. Well, Mr Stephanoff, without my knowledge or permission, quoted the three or four lines of general praise that I wrote (I wrote "on the whole, &c."), but gave no hint that I had written three or four pages of pretty severe criticism. That criticism is justified the more I examine his Dictionary. It is a hasty and crude production, which can never approach to be a standard or reference work.

However, the matter is settled; and I now simply wait to see what Mr Morse wishes done with his MS.

But the Mission's decision permitting the enlargement of the plant of the Publication Department, so that we can undertake Bible-printing here, stands; and for that I am thankful. I hope, if we are successful in our bid for the printing of the new edition of the Bible, that that may help us well over all financial difficulties during the next three or four years, and may eventually lead us into the path of self-support. And, besides, I shall be glad to see our press identified with the Bible-printing for Bulgaria.

I trust I am not mistaken when I think I see some providential leadings into this line of work. The $1900 offered for Dictionary + Bible work will, I hope, be allowed to remain for Bible work alone, — or if not all of it, at least half or more of the sum. = Then, scarcely have we corrected the Revelation of the new edition of the Bible that has been on hand (printing in Constantinople, but proof-reading by us here) for the last five years, that the agent of the Bible Society announces his intention to begin another big edition almost at once, + gives me a chance to bid for it. = And finally, a good Protestant binder in Sofia is available for doing work that we cannot do here, + carries the books out of this out-of-the-way town, + places them in the capital, where they can be both easily stored + easily distributed. = If we are led on successfully in this way, I shall praise God for opening up things in a manner in which I, who never had a business training, could not possibly have done.

With cordial regards,

Yours very sincerely,

Robt. Thomson.

Samokov, Bul. July 17-1908.

Robert Thomson

Rec'd NOV 11 1908

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Samokov, Bulgaria.
28th October, 1908.

My dear Dr Barton,

Yours of the 9th inst. reached me a few days ago.

In regard to the Dictionary I dont know that there is much to tell as yet. Even after knowing the decision that was reached in regard to it in our Mission councils Mr Morse sent me out other 3000 words which he had collected, and still later gave me what he called power of attorney to do with the whole work as I should think best. He made various suggestions as to getting it published; but none of them seems practicable to me at present. Almost immediately after receipt of that letter from him I became busily engaged in correspondence with the Constantinople Agent of the American Bible Society, and have been so very occupied since, that I have not had time to turn my thoughts to the Dictionary. But I must think about it soon. If I had private funds I would publish it, with the corresponding half, on my own venture; for Mr Ste-

NOV 1 1908

phanoff's Dictionary proves more unsatisfactory the more it is used. But as that is not possible just now, I think I must look in still other directions for the solution of the question.

In the latter part of the summer I had one of the severest & most prolonged attacks of fever and ague that I have ever had; and I have been having a good deal of it since. I have it quite strongly to-day. I think this must account for my having forgotten that I ought to write and tell you the result of my bids for the Bible-printing. Please excuse me. High fever & heavy work are a combination that is apt to be rather imperious in insisting on its own exclusive claims.

Well, I am happy (I trust I have a right to be happy) to be able to tell you that I have secured, practically, all that I bid for. That is, Dr Bowen has given me to print 5000 of Genesis, 5000 of Psalms, 5000 of Proverbs, & 10,000 of the New Testament; and he says that if that works proves satisfactory he will give me, when it is done, 5000 of the whole Bible. With the money given from a certain source I have slightly enlarged our premises, increased our furnishings, and ordered from Vienna

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additional type; and now we are at work on Genesis. I am greatly hampered by not having a skilled pressman; but I hope to be in a position to hire one next summer. Meanwhile I shall strain every nerve to execute creditably the first part of these orders; and if I succeed with them, we shall get in an income that will float us through the year's expenses in spite of the fact that we have a larger number of boys working than ever before, & have once more a foreman compositor. In fact, if we succeed with this work, so long as it lasts we shall be, between our income from it, and the sale of books, and the Board's appropriations, easily self-supporting, and perhaps be able to lay aside something against our next needs in the way of equipment. My dream is to see this Printing Establishment grow to be a great Bible and Religious Tract printing centre for Bulgaria & Macedonia, & perhaps for Servia & our other Slavic neighbours, — a sort of second Beirut eventually. It may never come about, or if it does it may not be in my day; but that is the eventual aim I have in view, and I mean to work for it (and through it for the C. & J. Institute) as far as I am able.

There seems little use in writing anything about the political situation. It changes from day to day; and to-day's outlook would be, probably, very different from the to-days when you read this. But I still entertain a strong hope that the questions will be settled without war. As to Bulgaria, in no case will she ever become subject to Turkey again: that is certain. But, while I sympathize with Bulgaria's action and stand at this juncture, I do feel extremely sorry that the Young Turks, who have accomplished such a marvellous revolution, who have done so well thus far, & whose pluck in tackling the great problem before them is beyond all praise, should find themselves hampered by these unexpected problems — whether through a mistake of their own or not. I trust nothing will be allowed to discourage or thwart them, still more that nothing will be permitted to restore the old regime.

But you suggest the real problem (for us), the one that sprang into my mind as soon as the independence was declared — What effect will this have on our work? That remains to be seen.

Yours very sincerely,

Robt. Thomson.

Samoëkov. Bul. Nov. 28. 1908.

REC'D JAN 26 1909

/3

Samokov, Bulgaria.
9th January, 1909.

My dear Dr Barton,

I have had your letter of the 2nd December before me for about three weeks, in the course of which time I have talked with my colleagues in regard to one part of it; and now I begin the new year with such reply as I am able to make. I am feeling better again, I am thankful to say; but it is evident that "my" chills & fever, which have been with me since childhood, will never leave me while I am in the flesh, and may even become stronger as strength to bear up against them decreases. I am only supremely thankful that they have never yet quite succeeded in flooring me, so that I have always, even at the worst, been able to attend to my work after a fashion.

It is a great satisfaction to me that you feel able to "congratulate me on the splendid contract I have made with the Bible Society." You know the severity of the criti-

cism that was passed on the mere making such a proposal. You know also the doubts, hesitations, lukewarmness, & perhaps even indifference in others that had to be overcome before the authorizing Vote was passed. But I trust that the results are going to justify what has been done.

In the first place, I have been able to hire, & now have, a competent foreman in the composing-room, & another in the press-room. This both relieves me of some strain, and, still more important, insures proper control & oversight of the boys working in these departments.

In the next place, the earnings of the boys are very considerably increased; and in these hard times, with the institute fee raised, & all things more expensive, this is no small boon.

And, lastly, I believe my calculations are going to be realized that, so long as this contract lasts, we shall not need to beg for funds. The appropriations & our earnings will keep us. That is an immense relief. I felt all the pride of a youth who pockets his first earnings when, two days ago, I sent to Constantinople the completed "Genesis," & asked for my 770 francs.

The work has not been finished quite as rapidly as I hoped for; but in all other respects I think it is very satisfactory.

And, of course, aside from these business considerations, I repeat my sense of pleasure that our press now becomes identified with the printing of the Scriptures for this nation.

It is true, on the other hand, that such an enlargement of work as this creates new needs. We have already met the one by an enlargement of the building; and though our quarters are still narrow, we are thankful for the better accommodation. Now we are hampered on the freezing of our water-power (which also often fails us even when not frozen). But to-day I am writing & ordering a 2-h.p. motor-engine to drive it. This my wife & I are getting out from Scotland, to be used eventually, probably, by our son on his farm here; but in the meantime we are putting it at the disposal of the printing establishment. I trust this will relieve us greatly.

I am not sure but some of us are beginning to think even that we could do with a larger & more up-to-date press than that good one which

was so marvellously given us six years ago! But that thought can hardly materialize in this building. I do believe, however, that this printing establishment ought to be, & is destined to become, the agent not of our Mission alone, but also of the Bible Societies & of other religious organizations at work in the country.

But now I must turn to the important question which you ask us to a business-agent for this Station. In reply to what you ask, let me just say that our Mission, at its Annual Meeting in Salonica in 1906, made exactly such a request, — asked for a business-agent for this Station to relieve the heavy pressure. You will find it in the Report of the Committee on the Supply of the Field. It received the endorsement of the Mission at the time. It is not wonderful if, with all that you have to do, to think of, & to keep in mind, this request passed from your memory, or left behind it just the impression which has led to your making this enquiry; but the need was great then, has been so all along, & is greater than ever now when, through furloughs, we are short-handed, & expect to be so for years to come.

There is no question that an efficient & Christian layman could find plenty to occupy him here, and that the relief afforded to us missionaries would be most desirable, because we would not use all the time gained in merely resting. We do all need some more rest than we can get; but what we specially regret is that we have so little time for reading, for doing more & better work on sermons & secular lectures, & for visiting the out-stations of our field. Our time is largely spent on office and clerical work that a business agent could do just as well. For example, the Carpentry Department is in desperate need of being set on a proper footing. In Mr Baird's absence we have had to entrust the charge of it to three ladies; & they now advocate its being closed up. Then the charge of the repairs on our numerous & rather shaky premises entails a lot of work. Much of the Treasurer's work could be done by such a man. In the Boys Institute, there are endless things that he could do, — buying fuel, keeping the marks, superintending those boys that have work (manual) to do, & lots of other such things. I have to spend lots of time in making up parcels of books & tracts for the post, packing boxes, purchasing fuel, buying & selling postage-stamps for the Station,

& running this establishment on its business side. I daresay there is also much in the Girls' School that could be done by such a man.

I talked the matter over again with my colleagues since receiving your letter, & am authorized by them to say that the need for such help has not diminished, but increased. We all would be heartily thankful if you could provide such a man for the Station. We believe it would soon result (as soon as the new man learned the language & found his feet) in our being able to do more of the truly missionary work that it is usually supposed we do.

This leads me to say just a word or two in regard to the very sanful letter from you to the Mission which Mr Ostrander read to us between 12 & 1 a.m. of the 1st inst., just after we had had a short prayer-meeting to bring in the New Year. I do trust that you & the interested public will try patiently & in faith to believe that this Mission is doing more than appears on the surface. My views in my Jubilee Article are not, I think, rose-coloured. The nation as a whole is being powerfully leavened; and the results may astonish us any day. I am sure you will agree with me that the mere name of

being Protestant is of no importance. I am sure our men + women are all devoted, full of faith, + work hard. And please do not think that these unfortunate recent troubles amongst fill our hearts + minds + paralyse our hands. We felt it necessary to do what we did about them; but we dont lie awake at nights thinking of them. I trust I may even say that, so far from hindering God's Spirit amongst us, they may have prepared us for more of His presence + blessing, for they have led to heart-searching, humiliation, + a spirit of forgiveness + forbearance. Results cannot be forced. I am sure the American Board will not be the Society to forget the precedent + example of Judson in Burmah + of many others like him, whose work was long unrewarded with the outward signs of blessing.

As to the splendid revolution in Turkey, it has not as yet produced any appreciable effect on our work in this part of our field, and I do not think is likely to do so in any great degree. How it may be in the Macedonian region, others will be better able to tell you than I. The full results of the establishment of the Kingdom here cannot be known till the Powers recognize it; and till then we must wait to see. Except for one thing.

The Budget has already been increased by nearly $6,000,000, to the dismay of the already heavily-taxed people. I fear this growing expense of living is going to tell adversely on the schemes for self-supporting churches, on general benevolence, & on the offers of young men & women for the work. God grant it may not be so.

As to the mere political considerations, I have never felt able to share the view which you & so many others have expressed, that Bulgaria's Declaration of independence was untimely. Since it was part of the Young Turkey programme that all Turkish territory (in which they included Bulgaria) must remain such forever, & their Bulgaria was wise not to let that dream go unawakened for a day. All the world knows that Bulgaria has been practically independent for quarter of a century, & that Turkey will never be allowed to rule her again. So it seems to me that the move was wise & was demanded by the situation. The Young Turks, for whom I have the highest admiration & sympathy, ought to be glad to have Bulgaria off their hands and a strong friend on their flank. As to Bulgaria, she is doing well. She inspires respect & confidence. This nation is the coming people here in the East. We must do all we can for them, if not on lines that we should prefer, then on God's lines, which are the best.

Very sincerely yours, Robt. Thomson

Samokov, Bul. Jan. 2, 1909.

Rec'd MAY 3 1909

Personal views on conclusions of Albanian Deputation

Korcha, Albania,
European Turkey.
17th April, 1909.

My dear Dr Barton,

In God's good providence, Mr Peet, Mr E. B. Haskell, and I, who formed the Albanian investigating committee, arrived here a week ago to-day after a deeply interesting tour of twenty-five days. Our Annual Meeting had then been in session two days. Last night we closed; and this morning four of our number left, anxious to reach their homes as early as possible on account of the turn of affairs reported from Constantinople. The rest of us will spend Sunday (to-morrow) here, and will begin our homeward journeys on the 19th.

I am anxious to avail myself of this free day to write to you at once regarding the recommendations that we of the investigating committee made, and their reception by the rest of our friends. I shall leave aside for the present the much that might be written about the tour itself, believing that you will wish to get to the heart of the subject at once.

I shall write to you with the frankness that I believe you desire. But I wish at the outset to disclaim in the strongest way possible any intention on my part to do what is called wire-pulling, or to seek in any way to influence your mind against the Report that we made, and which the Mission finally adopted without change. I loyally supported our Report all through the debate upon it; and no one outside of the investigating committee knows — at least from me — of the differences of opinion that prevailed within our committee itself. If I now write and tell you of these differences, it is solely with the view to help you to understand the difficulties which prevented our making other recommendations than those we did. I think the fact that the Mission at last adopted our Report as it stood is an indication that, under the circumstances, nothing better could be done. But there is no doubt that at first blush our Report disappointed the Meeting. It was only after the members had for three days discussed all sides of the problem as we of the committee had thought of and discussed them for more than two weeks on the field itself that at last they somewhat reluctantly, and even in the end not quite unanimously, approved our recommendations.

It has to be kept in mind all through that we had the five-years time-limit constantly before us, and always thought of our various proposals in the light of the showing that they might be expected to make at the end of that time, since the future of the Albanian Mission was understood to depend largely on the amount of encouragement that it might then present.

The only point on which we — the investigating committee — were at first unanimous was in regard to Elbassan. We were of one mind in thinking that geographically, and because it is on the border-land between the Ghegs and the Tosks, and its language is well understood over the entire country, it is <u>the</u> place for a strong central station. It is believed that ere long the Monastir railway will be continued through Elbassan to Durazzo, and the more than half-completed road connecting Elbassan and Ochrida will be finished, while there is even some talk of a north and south railway through Albania which would also pass through Elbassan. Everything seems to point it out as the town which will soon be the centre of Albanian activities. And it is significant that Miss Durham is understood to have selected this town* as the one in which to plant the Girls' School which she proposes to open for the Albanians.

* i.e., Elbassan.

But we were equally of one mind in judging that the present occupation of Elbassan is impossible because of Mrs Erickson's inability to ride on horseback, and because of the pledge she received in Boston that she would not be asked to go to any place that was accessible only by horse.

Then came the question what to recommend under these circumstances. We were again of one mind in thinking that the only other places that could be proposed for occupation were Tirana and Korcha; but here our unanimity ceased. Mr Haskell was of the opinion that both the missionaries should be placed at Tirana: I was of the opinion that they should both be placed here at Korcha; while Mr Peet came to the conclusion that, in spite of your strong advice, amounting practically to an order, we must give up the idea of one station, and leave each of the missionaries where he is. After full argument, it became apparent that Mr Peet and I could not possibly agree with Mr Haskell, as we could not sanction the desertion by the missionaries of the Girls' School here. Just as little could Mr Peet and Mr Haskell agree with me, as they did not think it right to leave all the rest of the field unoccupied. And so finally, for the sake

of a unanimous report, Mr Haskell and I agreed to accept Mr Peet's conclusions; and when we presented them to the Mission, they were, as I have said, at length adopted just as we drew them up. But the very fact that our Report was a compromise report serves to explain why it caused such disappointment, and raised so much doubt and opposition. And it is the fact of its being a compromise that makes me feel that I ought to let you know more fully what my views were, — all the more so since I heard these views argued (amongst others) by some members of the Mission in the prolonged debate that preceded the adoption of our Report. But I repeat that I write you my views (for they are still my views), not with any wish whatever to say anything against what was finally agreed upon, for I heartily concur in that as the only thing that under the circumstances will satisfy all parties, but simply that you may have full light upon the subject. This might be of use to you should any change unexpectedly occur in the situation within the limit of the five years.

Of course you will understand that we should all have been heartily glad if, instead of recommending one central station with two families, or two stations with one family each, we could have recommended Tirana

(or Elbassan) and Korcha with two families each. That would have been our present ideal, and it is no more than the needs of Albania demand; but we could not hope that there was any possibility of getting that.

Well (1) my personal view is strongly against two single-family stations, and in favour of one two-family station. I hold this view for the well known reasons that are commonly urged, and which you forcibly pressed upon us in your letters on the subject; but I also hold them because of what I have seen of our two Albanian missionaries. I do not think that either of them should be left alone. As regards Mr Erickson, I fully concur in thinking him a very strong man, well equipped, of clear views, with moderate aims, of undaunted purpose, and with a deep spiritual character. But I also feel that he has underestimated the strength of the Moslem sentiment in the district where he has settled, and that, unless he has a colleague to visit Elbassan and other places where there is a Christian population, and to seek to evangelize amongst them, Mr Erickson may work in Tirana, not five years alone, but fifty, without being able once to open his lips as a preacher of the gospel. As regards Mr Kennedy, he is one who makes no concealment of leaning largely on others. He needs one to consult with constantly, one to suggest, one

to confirm him in his own views. He openly said that, if left alone here, he didn't see what he could do. I also feel that, single-handed, he is not as yet strong enough to do for the work in Korcha that which it needs, and to which I shall presently refer.

(2) If Elbassan must for the present be ruled out as the central station, and either Tirana or Korcha be selected as the place of labour of both the missionaries, I advocate Korcha for the following reasons:—

(a) We already have there a flourishing 18-year old Girls' School, and a 1-year old Boys' School hopefully begun since the Constitution was proclaimed in Turkey. It seems more reasonable to maintain and develop these than to leave the Girls' School to itself there, and to start another Boys' School in Tirana.

(b) A considerable economy in equipment and teaching force is effected by having the Girls' and the Boys' Schools in the same town; and experience shows that, if in one town, they support each other socially and religiously. Yet it would be out of the question to remove the Korcha Girls' School, which has many more Christian than Moslem scholars, to the purely Mohammedan town and district of Tirana.

(c) Mohammedan scholars already constitute one-third of the total in the Korcha Girls' School; and there

are some in the Boys' School. This, I think, proves my contention that, in a town of mixed population such as Korcha is, Mohammedans are not unready to send their children to a Christian school, whereas in the purely Moslem town of Tirana such a thing would be impossible, at least if the Christian Scriptures were read, prayer offered, and religious instruction given in the school. Since therefore both the Ericksons and the Kennedys feel that their work is to be chiefly for the Mohammedans, and since they both feel that education is the one entering wedge that will give them access to the Mohammedans, I think that Korcha rather than Tirana is the place for the effort to be put forth.

(d) Everywhere on our journey through the country we heard that Korcha is looked to, with pride, as the "Paris" of Albania. It leads in thought and action. Its influence is strongly felt all over the land, — a thing that cannot be said of any other Albanian town. Korcha is the highest to which an Albanian can reach in his own country. People will come from Tirana, Elbassan, Berat, &c., to Korcha; but Korcha people will not go "down" to other places. A work therefore which centres in Korcha will make itself felt all over Albania as it could not do if centred elsewhere.

(e) A printing press has already been established in Korcha, from which is issued a newspaper that goes all over Albania. The missionaries would therefore have the facilities at hand for making a beginning with evangelical tracts. Tirana is not likely to have a printing press for many a year to come.

(f) Korcha is much more accessible from Monastir than Tirana is; and it is evident that, especially in the early years of the Albanian work, there will be need of frequent consultation and communication between the two places, and, through Monastir, with the rest of the Mission.

(g) For years past it has been complained that the Kyrias and Tsilka families, though composed of undoubted Christians, do not exercise that decided and strong evangelical influence that is desirable, and do not impart to the school a distinctively American character. From what I have seen I am persuaded that it will take the strength of both our missionaries to deal with these difficulties, as well as to keep our work entirely outside of the embroilments of politics, and let it be seen that we have neither a propaganda to push, like the Greeks, nor any other aim than the highest enlightening and elevating of the people.

If, on the other hand, the missionaries were at Tirana, and not at Korcha, these matters would remain uncorrected; and in addition to that, as Miss Kyrias herself admits, the school would lose prestige as having been considered unworthy (apparently) of missionary nurture.

(h) Since the purchase of property and the erection of buildings is in the meantime not to be undertaken till it be seen what is to become of Elbassan, the working of a full station at Korcha would be but little more expensive than at Tirana. The Mission would therefore have the greater advantages of the one place for practically the same price that it would have to pay for the lesser advantages of the other.

For these reasons my personal view is (1) in favour of one Station with both the missionaries at it, rather than settling them in different places, and (2) in favour of Korcha rather than Tirana as the one Station. But for the sake of unanimity I accepted the proposals of Mr Peet, as he and Mr Haskell could not agree with me, nor Mr Peet and I with Mr Haskell. I surrendered my objection to the two one-family stations as less important than my objection to the leaving of Korcha en-

tirely unoccupied.

I do not think I need to present Mr Peet's or Mr Haskell's arguments. They will doubtless do so themselves. I have simply endeavoured to show you my side, — why I could not accept Tirana, and so was obliged to compromise. But I ought to say in conclusion that I fear that the compromise has another weak feature than the one already noticed, namely this, that neither the Boys' School at Tirana nor the one at Korcha (if it be continued) can under the circumstances be made very satisfactory. It remains therefore to be seen, at Tirana, whether the friendliness shown to Mr Erickson in expectation of something very good will continue if the expectation be disappointed, and, at Korcha, whether a less than very good school can compete with the others in the town. I have grave doubts in both cases.

You see how the matter bristles with difficulties. Could anything better have been done under the circumstances than present the compromise recommendations that we did, lame though they be?

With cordial regards,

Yours very sincerely,

Robt. Thomson.

Robert Thomson

Kortcha-Albania Apr. 17-1909.

Copies

Thomson

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RECEIVED
O. H. PATTON
MAY 28 1909
Acc.

Samokov, Bulgaria.
15th May, 1909.

To the Congregational Churches of the
Orleans Conference, Vermont, U. S. A.

My dear Friends,

~~I very much fear that this letter can hardly arrive in time to greet you at your June Conference.~~ I returned to my work barely a week ago after a two months' absence, and have only now been able to get round to this letter [after attending to the most pressing things that I found awaiting me]

[My absence was not a holiday — in the proper understanding of that term. That is] I did not go away for the sake of rest or change. I was appointed ~~by my Mission, along~~ with two others, to make a visit of investigation in Albania, the new territory that has been added lately to the field of our operations, ~~and~~ the object of our tour was to ~~be able to~~ advise the Mission on several important points in connection with the opening of this new work. ~~Yet as~~

Copy of Thomson

~~a matter of fact~~ The journey proved to be a most delightful combination of doing serious business and taking a good holiday. With the capable assistants that I now have I was able to leave my work without much anxiety. ~~To reach the field of our investigation~~ We had a week's journey by steamer in summer-like weather by a route that permitted us to pay visits to the ruins of Philippi and to Athens, to pass in sight of Corinth, to touch at Patras and Corfu, and to land at Brindisi, — places of absorbing interest. ~~And once~~ When we landed in the north-western corner of Albania and began our land journey, on horseback, our tour proved to be just the wildest kind of mountaineering, sometimes taking us up to the snow-line, and sometimes necessitating ~~our using the~~ the use of primitive fords for crossing large rivers. ~~The consequence is that~~ I have come back ~~just as though I had been holiday making~~, bronzed in complexion, in splendid health, stimulated in mind, and refreshed in spirit. For the country through which we travelled, though wild and uncivilized, is magnificently picturesque, a perfect tumble of snow-topped mountains, and well fitted to exercise nature's renewing power alike on soul and body.

~~speaking on more general topics~~. We thought that possibly, if God gives His blessing, this first meeting in Albania might come some time to be considered of special interest, ~~and~~ so we were all photographed in a group. I hope that the picture may be reproduced in the "Missionary Herald."

In the Publication Department under my charge we are still very busy, ~~expect to be for some time~~. We have finished Proverbs & Psalms for the Bible Society & have now begun the New Testament. We are still at work on the Jubilee Volume, and when that is finished we shall be ready to begin on the Children's Hymn Book ~~and perhaps on our booklet on Spiritism~~. Tracts new and old we are printing all the time.

Our two younger daughters have now returned from school, and we trust will soon be engaged, like their older sister, in some useful line of work. They and their brothers, as well as my wife and I, are all in good health and spirits.

What a fearful blow the Central Turkey Mission has suffered in the massacre, losing 15 of its Protestant pastors and 4 other representative men! God grant that with the deposition of Hamid such things may end forever.

Yours very sincerely,

Robt. Thomson.

During my absence an evangelist from London, Mr J. A. Campbell, came here and held a series of meetings for three weeks [as he had done elsewhere and as he has since done elsewhere in Bulgaria] with specially good results. ~~His work here seems to have been very impressive and successful.~~ A large number of the students in both our schools were reached, some also from the national school, and some of the townspeople, including some army officers. [A feature of the work which was specially satisfactory was that, as he was in no hurry, he was able to devote hours every day to private conversation with individuals; and this deepened and fixed what was done by his public meetings. We trust that the results will prove to be considerable and of a really permanent and useful kind — a kind that will bring us more young men and women ready to devote themselves to work amongst their own people. I understand that several of our students are to be received into church-membership to-morrow.]

No 8 (~~Mr~~ Rev. F. B. Meyer, also, the London pastor, well known all over the world for his evangelistic

labours, ~~was able to~~ spent three days in Philippopolis on his way to Constantinople and the East, and to hold a series of meetings there. These ~~meetings~~ were designed to be not evangelistic of the ordinary kind, but for the aid of our Bulgarian pastors and preachers, giving them spiritual stimulus and hints in regard to methods of work. All the pastors & preachers in this part of the field, with I think only one exception, were able to attend these meetings, and I hear that they found them extremely profitable. It is a great help ~~to~~ to have visits from men like these, and it has been pleasing to find, especially here in Samokov, that the old prejudices against such work seem to be rapidly dying out.

Our Annual Meeting was held for the first time in Korcha, a town on the eastern border of Albania, ~~and~~ where the Girls' School is situated that I mentioned before. I was a guest in the school, and had the privilege of preaching (through an interpreter) the sermon on the morning of Easter Sunday, and of giving one of the addresses to a large & influential gathering of Mohammedans & Christians one week-day evening.

[One reason why I was selected to be on the investigating committee was that my father during all his life took a peculiar interest in the Albanians. He was probably the first evangelical worker amongst them, in his capacity as Agent of the British and Foreign Bible Society. He toured many times all through the country, and did all that was then possible for the translation & dissemination of the Scriptures amongst them. And then in the years of his retirement he mastered their language, prepared considerable Christian literature for them, and printed it at his own expense. He also was practically the founder of the only Girls' School that has ever existed in the country, and its chief supporter during its earlier years, though latterly the school has been taken over by our Mission. It was a deep gratification to me to find, all over the region that we traversed, from our very first day in it to the very last, that his name and work are remembered with gratitude. I was very thankful to be permitted and honoured to do anything, however small, to serve the nation which he loved so much, and to show my own interest in it.]

You would not care to hear what were the particular points which we were asked to clear up for the Mission, [or what were the conclusions we ar-

sired at. And very likely some or all of us may prepare something for publication in regard to what we found. So I shall not go into the subject at any length here.] But I must say this much: We found the neglected condition of the Albanians to be as extreme as it has ever been painted. I doubt whether there is another people in Europe so low down as they are. No more needy field for Christian work could be found than amongst them. In particular, a medical missionary, or half a dozen of them, would be an unspeakable blessing. ~~to them~~. This constitutes a strong appeal to us, and so does the fact that at last, ~~at long last,~~ there seems to be a stirring amongst these dry bones, and one can see that they may live. Oh for the privilege of being used to give them life! The difficulties undoubtedly are great, but Christianity is not in the habit of stumbling at that, but rather finds in them an incentive to achieve a new victory. I commend to your earnest prayers this new field and the two new missionary families that have opened the work there. The Board has not gone into a new venture when old ones were cramped for lack of funds. Private individuals have provided for this work during its first years, and if it proves hopeful it will undoubtedly be sustained in the future.

REC'D JUN 9 1909

/18

Samokov, Bulgaria.
28th May, 1909.

My dear Dr Barton,

Your letter of the 3rd March arrived just after I had started off for the tour in Albania. After making the tour and attending Annual Meeting I went to Germany with Mrs Thomson to bring back our two daughters who were at school there. Thus I did not reach home again till the 8th inst.; and it was only two days ago that I was able to get round to consulting with my colleagues on the subject-matter of your letter.

I will confess that two of us at least were not able to see very clearly just what is the different nature of the information which you now desire as to the sending out of a business agent from that which I gave you in reply to your first letter. But in the hope that we may hit the right thing this time I shall follow closely the words of your questions, even though I thought that

they had already been answered.

The first point seems to be whether, if such an agent were sent us, he would be welcomed by us as a Station. Most certainly he would. Our Annual Meeting of three years ago would not have taken the action that it did in calling for such a man for us unless this Station had approved the step. Indeed, unless this Station had asked for such a man, I don't believe that Annual Meeting would have taken the first step in calling for him. At any rate, to make the matter perfectly clear, I am authorized by my Station to tell you that we would heartily welcome a lay business agent — fully appointed missionary — should you send us one.

Samoa would welcome business agent

The second point seems to be whether such a man could do certain work that you specify. Naturally that would depend on his ability to get hold of the language. But, taking it for granted that such ability is not conferred only with the laying on of ordaining hands, we reply that we see no reason why he should not do the work as well as we do it, and very likely better than we do it since he comes out with a special business training. He could certainly take charge of the Carpentry branch of

Function of business agent

the Industrial Department; of the business side (i.e., as distinct from the literary side) of the Printing branch; of the Station and School accounts; of the teaching of a good deal of the English, and perhaps of some other subjects, in the C. & I. I.; and — to go beyond your list of questions — of the repairs on our numerous buildings; and of the purchase of the enormous supply of fuel that we annually consume.

The third point, more implied than stated, seems to be whether there is enough work here to keep such a man busy, and to keep us also busy after being relieved of what he takes. Our reply is unhesitatingly that we believe there is. The mere list of activities mentioned above is enough to satisfy you, I think, that he would have his hands full. As to us ordained missionaries, there is nothing we desire so much as to have more time for touring in our field, for doing religious work right here in Samokov, for reading more, for ministering to the public through lectures on all kinds of useful subjects, and so on. We sincerely believe that our being set free from more secular work — "ministering to tables" as you quote — would produce only a larger activity on our part in more purely religious and educational lines.

enough work for all

Ans'd by Dr. Bell May 28 briefly

I suppose it will be some time yet before I can have a reply from you to the letter I wrote you from Kortcha. You will wish to defer an answer until you have the Minutes of the Annual Meeting in your hands. I hope that Messrs Peet and Haskell also wrote you fully. But in due time we shall all be desirous of knowing what view the Prudential Committee takes of the matter.

I have enough work in the Printing Establishment to keep me busy all through the summer months and on to the end of the next school year in July, 1910.

Believe me, with kindest regards,
Yours very sincerely,
Robt. Thomson.

Samoa Pub. May 28-1909

Samokov, Bulgaria.
17th November, 1909.

(Rec'd Sept 8 - not yet ans'd)

Dear Dr Barton, Possibly my former post-card on the subject did not reach you, or, more probably, you could not attend to it under the pressure of preparing for Annual Meeting. So I now write to ask again if you would care to have for the Library at the Rooms a copy of the volume printed in commemoration of our Missions last-year Jubilee. It is all in Bulgarian; and that is why I am in doubt on the subject. I may add that it, like our Hymn-Book, is also considered a monument of the excellent work that we now turn out from this printing establishment.

I was at the Congress which met in Sofia from the 4th to the 8th November, composed of 73 delegates representing the Congregational, Methodist, & Baptist communities in the country, with the object of framing a set of regulations to control the relations between the Protestant Churches & the Government. We accomplished our object; but now it remains to be seen whether the Government will give its approval. I fear we shall have a long fight for it. In spirit and tone the Congress was a success & surprise beyond our most prayerful imagination. I returned with the wild hope in my breast of writing a brief article about it for the "Herald." But that hope has almost died. Similarly I had in mind to write two articles on our Albanian tour (dealing with different subjects); and during the summer I managed to write one page of one of them. But that hope is gone forever. From this point of view alone it seems a mistake to have missionaries so loaded down with work that they can't write and tell what they are doing.

Yours most truly, Robt. Thomson

DEC 1 1909

Samokov, Bulgaria,
17th November, 1909.

My dear Mr Bell,

I duly received the copy of your letter to our Mission Secretary in regard to Rev. J. A. Campbell, which you were kind enough to send me, I presume because of the special interest that this Station has in his appointment.

Of course, the adverse decision that has been reached is a great blow to our hopes. I can but trust that some of the missionaries here may not succumb under the burden of work they have to carry.

I hope I may be acquitted of any intentional impropriety if I say, with the utmost respect, that, in my opinion, the Prudential Committee never made a greater mistake than in rejecting Mr Campbell on the ground of insufficient educational qualifications. Were the Board's educational requirements such as to exclude men who would bring discredit on the work by reason of their poor

Mr. Campbell

equipment, and who moreover had nothing special to recommend them, I could understand it. But when Mr Campbell has such education as has fitted him to be pastor of an American church, and in addition to that has such remarkable gifts as an evangelist, I venture to think that there has been exhibited in his rejection a lamentable blindness to a great opportunity. I exceedingly regret to see the Board falling into line with other bodies in America and Britain that keep raising the educational standard higher and higher, quite reckless of the fact that in many cases they thereby shut out poor the work men who would do more for the advancement of God's kingdom than all the other learned missionaries put together.

You do not say whether you are ready to send Mr Campbell out as a lay worker. Can that not be done? It would do much to relieve the pressure.

I am most thankful for the amount of relief granted to our Collegiate & Theological Institute here. But would that its day had come as has come that of the Robert College!

Yours very sincerely
Robt. Thomson.

Samokov. Bul. Nov. 17. 1909.